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Poles protest siege with Warsaw strike

WARSAW, Dec. 14 (Agencies) — Polish workers staged strikes in at least four big industrial plants in the Warsaw area Monday in protest against the imposition of martial law and suspension of trade union and civilian freedoms.

Workers outside the plants said the strikes had begun after the morning shift. The official news agency PAP said there were discussions in many factories but denied that there had been any interruptions in production. With Poland's new military authorities tightening their grip, it was becoming virtually impossible to obtain information about developments elsewhere in the country.

Poles were living in conditions similar to war time with travel restricted, public meetings banned, union activity suspended, the press limited to a handful of two dailies, and radio and television given over to broadcasting military communiques. State radio broadcast a sermon by Polish primate archbishop Jozef Glemp in which he pleaded for Poles not to resort to violence. Troops and riot police guarded key areas in major cities and highways.

Officials of Solidarity free trade union who escaped the mass detentions Sunday after the military took over vowed that the union would not surrender. The military, led by Prime Minister and party leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski who is also defense minister, said they had assumed power to avoid civil war. The new 20-man Military Council of National Salvation said it did not intend to return Poland to the way it was ruled when workers rose against the system in the strikes of 1980.

But as the full extent of the military takeover sank home, it became apparent that the authorities had sought to deliver a mortal

blow to Solidarity, the Soviet Bloc's first free trade union. It appeared the military authorities wanted to ensure that the labor movement, which brought Poles freedoms never before experienced in the Soviet Bloc and plunged the country into a spiral of unending crisis, would never return to its previous form. Hundreds of Solidarity activists, dissidents, and intellectuals were detained Sunday. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was officially said to be in a government guest house.

The martial law authorities have not said how many persons were interned. But dissidents circulated a list with dozens of names Monday and 124 prominent intellectuals and artists issued a statement demanding the release of all those detained. The intellectuals said the authorities had broken the line of agreement with society by imposing emergency. The mass detentions had no precedent in Polish history, they added.

The detainees have been officially interned and though some were already reported released, the martial law regulations said they could be held for as long as the state of emergency lasts. The regulations, broadcast on radio and television, brought a number of key industrial sectors, including the mines, under direct military control. This meant that workers there could face court martial if they staged strikes or refused to obey orders.

Poles have been warned they face summary prison sentences and the death penalty for breaking the new laws which regulate their lives.

All petrol sales have been stopped for private motorists reducing the flow of traffic on streets to a trickle. Troops flagged down cars for spot checks and prevented persons driving out of the capital. An eight-hour curfew



SOLIDARITY HEADQUARTERS: The Warsaw headquarters of the independent union Solidarity is shown here. Polish police invaded the building twice this weekend and arrested many members of Solidarity and confiscated many documents.



MARTIAL LAW: Premier Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski announced details of the crackdown on television and radio.

was in force overnight. Telephone and telex lines were cut, banks closed and airline flights suspended.

The six-day working week, abolished in one of Solidarity's many victories over the authorities, was reintroduced. Solidarity officials, who now risk breaking the law by carrying out their union activities, said they were trying to establish a system of couriers. "We'll have to walk through the snow from city to city if necessary," one of them said.

Union officials who are still free concede that they were caught totally by surprise by the military takeover which now appears to have been planned months in advance. By moving Saturday night, the military struck when most workers were at home, making organized resistance all but impossible.

The authorities piled up evidence Monday to justify the move against Solidarity, which they accused of openly planning to bring down the Communist Party. They reacted as the union leaders, frustrated by what they saw as Communist intransigence, became increasingly radical in their public statements.

Walesa, a moderate, said he had been wrong not to believe the radicals who claimed that the Communists would never reform the system except under pressure. At one stage Solidarity appeared to be drawing Poland toward a form of social democracy — and this, in the final analysis, was unacceptable to a Soviet-supported system. Analysts in Warsaw said the Polish military had in effect carried out an internal invasion.

The army daily *Zobacz Wobnosci*, Solidarity's most consistent and vehement critic, said: "A sort of liberation has today taken place." The official Communist Daily *Trybuna Ludu* said: "This was a war on socialism and the party and all those opposed to the scenario of overthrowing people's rule in Poland."

Trybuna Ludu said little of the original hope, pride and euphoria generated by the birth of Solidarity remained. "A state of exception, deviating from normality and causing people to feel threatened, has existed in Poland for over a year. The first state of emergency was introduced not by the government but by Solidarity leaders," it said.

Trybuna said Solidarity leaders meeting in Gdansk last weekend had called for the expulsion of Communist Party cells from factories and advocated the overthrow of the authorities and the creation of a provisional government.

Kingdom upholds Bahrain security

RIYADH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Interior Minister Prince Naif stated Monday that the security of Bahrain and other Gulf states is the security of Saudi Arabia which supports Bahrain and all brothers in the Gulf.

The minister was commenting on a Bahrain Interior Ministry announcement which said that an Iranian attempt to assassinate top officials in the Gulf states was stopped. A group of Bahrainis and other nationalities were arrested after they came from Iran, where they had been trained in subversion and supplied with arms and communications equipment.

Prince Naif reiterated the Kingdom's full support for brethren saying it is evident that Saudi Arabia is among the states targeted by such activities of the Iranian government.

"While reaffirming our stance, we denounce such acts by a neighboring state which should have cooperated with all to stabilize security in the region, without allowing itself to beguile some of its nationals and make them jeopardize the security of their country", the prince said. He urged the Iranian government to put an end to "such irresponsible acts which undoubtedly are against the security of the Arab and Islamic peoples."

The Bahrain interior ministry statement said Sunday that the groups had instructions to blow up some "vital installations and spread fear and chaos. They also planned to attack senior government officials, security and defense forces."

The statement said the group and those behind it had intended to subvert all the states in the region.

Flouting international law Israelis annex Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (Agencies) — The Israeli government, risking international condemnation, decided Monday to apply Israeli law to the occupied Golan Heights of Syria and in effect annex it.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin brought the matter before the 120-member parliament shortly after 1700 (1500 GMT). A special date was put up to accommodate the premier, who is in a wheelchair recovering from a hip injury. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said the government had told Syria months ago that "Israel cannot wait for long" for Syria to negotiate peace with the Zionist state, and that annexation of the Golan Heights had always been "a mere matter of timing."

Nissim told an armed forces radio interviewer the move was prompted by a statement by Syrian President Hafez Assad Sunday in which, according to Nissim, Assad vowed not to recognize Israel "even in 100 years." Israel radio said Begin also hoped to exploit international preoccupation with the Polish crisis and push the annexation bill through parliament in a hurry.

Syria, reacting swiftly, called for an immediate meeting of the U.N. Security Council to deal with an Israeli aggression, a Syrian diplomat said at the United Nations Monday. Muhammad Samir Mansouri, Syria's deputy U.N. representative, confirmed that a letter, requesting an urgent council meeting, was being submitted to the 15-nation body by ambassador M. Dia-Allah El-Fattal. The Israeli action was tantamount to annexation of the strategic heights

occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

The 68-year-old premier, in the Knesset (parliament) plenum, He accused Syria of having made life difficult for Israelis with constant bombardments from the Golan Heights until Israel occupied them in 1967.

The immediate reason for the Israeli move appeared to be to win favor with Israelis who oppose Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai next April. They have vowed to block the withdrawal physically.

The government's timing may also have been picked to exploit world preoccupation with the Polish crisis, and by the notion that if Israel acts before the withdrawal, Egypt will mute its opposition lest it fouls up prospects for a smooth Sinai pullout.

The occupied Syrian Golan Heights are a (Continued on back page)

To protect Iran oil U.S. 'has invasion plan'

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AP) — The United States has developed a secret plan to invade the oil region of Southern Iran and other Middle East countries, to protect oil and security interests in the event of a Soviet advance, according to a report in this week's *Sunday Times of London*. The strategy is code-named "tripwire," reporter James Adams wrote.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig drafted the plan with President Reagan's approval although the Carter administration launched the idea after Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan in December 1979, the report said.

The plan would provide a quick U.S. military presence on the ground to deter Soviet intervention in the region.

The *Sunday Times* quoted "one man famil-

iar with the strategy" as saying: "If the Russians move into Iran, we will fly in 500 men to form an arc north of the oil fields and there they will stay. If any of our boys are shot, then the Russians know we will retaliate in any way we choose anywhere in the world."

The report went on: "Moscow has already been privately informed of the scheme's existence and men close to President Reagan cite the threat of tripwire to explain the low level of activity by Russia in Iran and the Middle East generally."

"As well as Iran, the line runs through Turkey, Pakistan, the Gulf, Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Kenya. America is prepared to intervene with troops in any and all of those countries if President Reagan feels the situation is serious enough."

Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani said that the cabinet also strongly condemned the plot by a group of saboteurs uncovered in Bahrain and all those behind it to shake that country and other Gulf countries' security and stability. It was briefed on the issue by Interior Minister Prince Naif and reviewed the text of the Interior Ministry communique in this connection. Saudi Arabia, the cabinet statement said, stands firmly by Bahrain's side and consultations will immediately start with sisterly Gulf states to take whatever measures are (Continued on back page)

East okays, West is dismayed about Poland

PARIS, Dec. 14 (AFP) — International reaction to the Polish crackdown was Monday split into familiar ideological lines — approval in the East, dismay in the West, including among some Western Communist parties.

In Moscow, Tass news agency reported the Soviet government's satisfaction at the statement by Polish Party Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski — who heads Poland's new military ruling group — that the Soviet-Polish alliance is a cornerstone of Poland's state interests.

The official Soviet statement published by Tass included a warning to the West: "All the measures taken in Poland certainly come under the heading of internal affairs. Any other interpretation that certain circles in the West are giving to these events

can only be considered as an attempt at interference in strictly Polish affairs."

The attitude elsewhere in the Eastern bloc was reflected by the comment of the Czechoslovak party organ *Rude Pravo* that "the measures taken in Poland reflect our total support and our sympathy."

Even in Budapest, where the Hungarian party's attitude toward Poland's "renewal" had been less unsympathetic than elsewhere in the Eastern bloc, the television commented that "responsible statesmen in East and West" now take a more optimistic view of chances for world peace.

To the West, in London, a Foreign Office spokesman commented: "We shall observe a policy of strict non-intervention and expect all signatories of the Helsinki final act to do the same. We are following events with close attention and are in consultation with our allies."

"We hope that the situation in Poland will return to normal as soon as possible."

In Bonn, where Soviet chief Leonid Brezhnev paid an official visit last month, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher expressed his government's "profound concern" to Polish Charge d'Affaires Miroslaw Wotjowski, who replied that the measures taken were provisional and "in the interest of world peace."

In the Vatican, it was announced that Cardinal Agostino Casaroli would be meeting President Ronald Reagan in Washington Monday. The announcement did not state the purpose of the meeting, but the assumption is it concerns Poland.

L'Unita, official daily of the Italian Communist Party, pointed out that the party condemns the measures in Poland and calls for the restoration of civil and trade union liberties there.

But in France, whose Communist Party is represented in the government, the party

daily *L'Humanite* commented that "Solidarity's excesses ruined the hope that was born" in Poland.

Some French Communists and sympathizers have called however for "collective action" to protest the Polish government's decision.

In the ruling Socialist Party, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy said he was "wholeheartedly" with the demonstrators who would be taking to the streets in France later Monday to protest the Polish action.

"Many ministers would like to participate," he said, "and if we were not in the government we would be there."

In the Netherlands, the Dutch Communist Party said it "completely" rejected the army takeover in Poland.

In Spain, the main political parties, including the Communists, expressed Solidarity with the Polish masses, as did trade unions.

"Repressive measures," the Communist Party said, "never settle political problems."

But in Lisbon, the Portuguese Communist Party daily reported that "emergency measures have been taken in Poland against the enemies of the Socialist state."

Also in Lisbon, Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes' spokesman said the president was following events in Poland "with attention and concern."

In Sweden, which pursues a policy of neutrality between East and West, Foreign Minister Ola Ullstein said that what had happened in Poland was an internal affair, but expressed the view that it "illustrates the true nature of the communist system."

Ullstein, replying in parliament to a question from a deputy who asked about humanitarian aid to Poland, said that in the long run communism can tolerate neither an opposition nor independent political movements.

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DR. MARIANO VIZCONDE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON From the foremost and biggest Philippine College of Medicine in Manila, Philippines.	DR. KAMAL ASSOUAD SURGEON — TRAUMATOLOGIST From the foremost and biggest French College of Medicine in Paris, France.
DR. HARI G. LULLA DERMATOLOGIST (Venereal Disease and Skin Specialist) From the foremost and biggest Indian College of Medicine in Bombay, India.	DR. SANGKUN PAHK FLIGHT MEDICINE From the foremost and biggest Korean College of Medicine in Seoul, Korea.
DR. (MRS.) SHARDA GADWAL GYNAECOLOGIST From the foremost and biggest Indian College of Medicine in Bombay, India.	DR. GOPAL AGARWAL E.N.T. SPECIALIST From the foremost and biggest Indian College of Medicine in Bombay, India.

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Petromin governor says

Local projects will outdo Europe's

NICOSIA, Dec. 14 (AP) — Saudi oil refineries and petrochemical projects will have a competitive edge in the future over European plants, as a result of access to cheap fuel and feedstocks, the governor of Saudi Arabia's Petroleum and Minerals Corporation (Petromin), said in an interview published Monday.

The governor, Dr. Abdul Hadi Taber, was also quoted by the Middle East Economic Survey as confirming that the Saudi government has decided on a price of 50 U.S. cents per million BTU (British Thermal Unit) for gas supplies as fuel and feedstock for refining and petrochemical projects in the Kingdom.

Taber described the gas price — which MEES said works out at only \$2.75 per barrel in terms of oil equivalent — as "a strong incentive" for the foreign companies involved in joint refining and petrochemical ventures in Saudi Arabia.

Center conducts studies on local fisheries

JEDDAH, Dec. 1 (SPA) — The Fish Resources and Research Center of Jeddah is currently conducting a program of academic and applied research on fisheries in the Kingdom's territorial waters on the Red Sea. The program is implemented in cooperation with King Abdul Aziz University's Marine Sciences College.

Fuad Daghestani, the center's director, said Monday that the studies will cover the northern part of the Red Sea, from Jeddah up to the Gulf of Aqaba. This part has been divided into five areas, he added. The studies will deal with the fish reserves, species



Dr. Abdul Hadi Taber the ventures start making a profit — which is taken to be a 25 percent rate of return. Taber was quoted as saying, "From then on he added, the gas prices will rise, ultimately being indexed to the price of Arabian light

crude. Taber said most projects have three to four years before start-up, and probably another three to four years to reach the 25 percent return of equity profit level.

Investment in Saudi Arabia's current program to expand maximum sustainable crude oil production capacity to 12 million barrels per day is going ahead unchanged, but the program itself is not likely to be completed before 1987, he was quoted as saying.

Actual exports from the Red Sea terminal at Yanbu are now approaching one million barrels per day. This should rise to the full capacity of 1.85 million barrels per day in a little less than a year's time, Taber said.

By the second half of the 1980's, Saudi Arabia will be exporting some 800,000 barrels per day of refined products, he added. He also disclosed that as of Dec. 1, Saudi Arabia has reduced the price of its propane exports by \$30 per ton.

nature of the sea bed and the qualities of food on which the fish feed. Detailed studies on the biological aspects of the area will be conducted shortly, Daghestani said.

The center's researchers are engaged in an economic and social survey of fishermen's lives in the Thawal area, the director said. Other teams also are conducting various studies on fish and its reserves in that area under the supervision of experts from countries of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The program is adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), he said. In a separate development, Rector of King

Abdul Aziz University Dr. Abdullah Nassif opened a seminar on exploiting and administering the coastal areas Sunday. The seminar, held at the KAU marine sciences college, will last until Thursday.

The symposium will study problems which result from the exploitation of resources in coastal areas. It will propose solutions depending on the experience gained in Saudi Arabia and several other places in the world.

Delegates came from the United Nations University in Tokyo, universities of Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait and Sudan; in addition to Jeddah Municipality, the Fish Resources and Research Center, the Saudi-Sudanese Commission for Exploring the Red Sea Resources, the Meteorology Department and members of staff at KAU.

U.S. team visits KFU in Ahsa

AHSA, Dec. 14 (SPA) — A delegation of U.S. universities visited King Faisal University's branch here Monday. The group held talks with Dr. Khaled Abdul Rahman Al-Seif, KFU undersecretary in Ahsa.

The delegation is currently on a three-day visit of the Eastern Province for discussing a program of cooperation between KFU's colleges and some American universities. The visit comes in the context of an agreement between KFU and several American universities worked out by the Joint Saudi-U.S. Commission for Economic Cooperation. The U.S. group also visited the university's training and research center, veterinary hospital and the irrigation and drainage project.

OIC denounces America's extradition of Palestinian

JEDDAH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — The organization of the Islamic Conference Monday strongly denounced the United States decision to turn over a Palestinian student to Israel.

The 42-nation OIC described the extradition of Ziyad Abu Ain to Israel as an "inhuman act which violates the international law." In a statement issued here, the organization said: "not only the operation is an unjustified act of provocation but it gives the Zionist enemy a new incentive to continue its aggressive policy toward the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied land."

The OIC was shocked when it received the news about the U.S. government's decision to extradite Abu Ain to Israel,

thus subjecting him to vengeance and Zionist terror, the statement read. The decision can affect relations between the U.S. and Islamic countries, it added.

The organization urged the international society and peace and justice-loving powers to denounce "this act which violates the simplest principles of human rights."

The State Department on Saturday sent Abu Ain to Israel climaxing a two-year legal battle over his freedom. He had been in a Chicago jail since his arrest by FBI agents in August 1979. Israel charged the Palestinian student with a marketplace bombing in the West Bank city of Tiberias in May, 1979.

Emergency aid boxes installed in Dammam streets

DAMMAM, Dec. 14 (SPA) — The Eastern Province Traffic Department has installed special boxes for emergency aid calls in 30 parts of Dammam, officials have announced. The boxes, being installed in Dammam for the first time, contain four buttons which will provide access to traffic, fire, ambulance and police departments.

According to Capt. Abdul Kader Talha, Dammam traffic director, Sunday the sites for the boxes have been selected jointly with the civil defense, police and the executing company. They have been installed in the main intersections of the city, he said.

Talha added that 20 similar boxes will be distributed in Alkhubar before going into use in eight major cities of the Kingdom. He said that when pressed the buttons transmit radio signals to the selected party which can spot the location from where the call originated. Meanwhile, Public Security Director Gen. Abdullah Al-Sheikh met with traffic directors of all cities in the Kingdom Sunday. He stressed, during the meeting, the need to prevent traffic accidents and minimizing them to the lowest limit possible.

Gen. Al-Sheikh called on the officers to follow up stories about traffic accidents in the media saying that they are meant to deter irresponsible activities and violations of the rules. He requested them to take care in dealing with the public and motorists in particular, but at the same time to be firm with offenders.

Official inspects information center

RIYADH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Public Security Assistant Director Gen. Yahya Abdullah Al-Mualimi visited Interior Ministry's National Information Center Monday to inspect it.

Mualimi accompanied by a number of senior officials, inspected the ministry's computer project. Dr. Abdul Azz Al-Sughair, the center's director general, briefed Gen. Al-Sheikh on the progress of work at the computer project which will serve particularly the public security sector, and the interior ministry in general.

The national information center is a project that comprises a main office in Riyadh where the data bank is located. The bank is linked to seven branch centers in Jeddah, Taif, Abha, Qasim, Tabuk, Arar and Dammam covering all interior ministry branches. It will help in providing immediate information on the ministry's activities.

From the Gulf

DUBAI, Dec. 14 (WAM) — The first Gulf computer exhibition will open at the Dubai International Trade Center Tuesday. UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid is expected to inaugurate the show. On display will be a wide variety of computing and word processing equipment. The show has attracted 46 exhibitors from the U.S., Canada, U.K., Austria, India, Greece, West Germany, Japan and Holland. A number of internationally-known firms such as the IBM and ICL will appear alongside local companies. Computers suitable for the work loads of large corporations and government departments, as well as personal ones will be on display. The exhibition will continue till Thursday.

SHARJAH, Dec. 14 (WAM) — C.P. Srivastava, secretary general of the inter-governmental maritime consultative organization (IMCO), left here Monday for London following a three-day visit to the UAE. He was seen off at the airport by Mustafa Tayarah, managing director of Arab maritime transport academy (AMTA). During his stay the IMCO secretary general held talks with Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qassimi, member of the UAE supreme council and ruler of Sharjah, and Said Al-Mualia, minister of communications, on cooperation between the UAE and IMCO.

BAHRAIN, Dec. 14 — Gulf Riyad Bank E.C., owned 60 percent by Riyad Bank of Jeddah, and 40 percent by Credit Lyonnais of Paris, held its fourteenth board meeting in Bahrain on Sunday. subordinated loan of SR85 million.

Advertisements for AIBT (Arabian Bulk Trade Ltd.) and BINEX (The International Co. for Building Materials Ltd.).

Advertisement for THAMA DISTRIBUTION CO. (Sole Distributor of Saudi Research and Marketing Ltd.) with contact information for various cities.

Large advertisement for Akai Video Tape Recorder, featuring a picture of the device and promotional text: 'Give the Magical Gift that Keeps on Giving. At Special Prices Now!'

Large advertisement for Saudia Milk & Ice Cream, featuring a picture of an ice cream cone and promotional text: 'Now in the Eastern Province. New... Improved! SAUDIA MILK & ICE CREAM. Better Taste Same Price.'

Between Saudi Arabia and New Zealand

Match income donated to UNICEF

RIYADH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Income from ticket sales for the football match between Saudi Arabia and New Zealand here Saturday will be donated to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), officials announced Sunday night. The match comes in the context of the Asian Oceania World Cup Qualifying Games.

Prince Fahd ibn Sultan, vice-chairman of the Saudi Arabian football federation, in a press conference appealed to the public to take part in the humanitarian campaign to support UNICEF's programs.

He said the federation's future plans concentrate on improving the broad base of football in the Kingdom, organizing success-

ful sporting seasons and giving special attention to the national teams at the amateur, youth and professional levels. It also intends to participate in all championships and tournaments at the three levels including the upcoming sixth Gulf tournament, Asian championship, Olympic qualifying games and the Asian world cup games for amateurs to be held in Bangladesh next year.

The federation had earlier during the day met under its chairman Prince Faisal ibn Fahd, the president of youth welfare.

Prince Faisal ibn Fahd said members of the federation had thanked Prince Fahd ibn Sultan for his efforts during the recent tour of the Kingdom's national football team for the

world cup qualifying games. The federation reviewed all aspects related to the tour, he said.

The Kingdom's team had travelled to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to play two matches against China, then proceeded to New Zealand and finally to Kuwait.

Prince Faisal ibn Fahd said there will be no major changes on the present formation of the national football team, its coaching staff or forming a new federation. He added that the national team will participate in the Gulf tournament scheduled for March, 1982. "We hope to achieve good results. We have all the ways and means which qualify us to obtain the best results," the prince said.

However, Prince Fahd ibn Sultan said that new names may be included to the national team's list before the group camps in Singapore to prepare for the Gulf tournament which will be held in the United Arab Emirates. Explaining why the national team would camp outside, the prince said that there are no natural-grass football fields in the Kingdom and, therefore, it has been decided to camp in the nearest country with these qualities. Singapore was the choice.

Anqari delivers Fahd message

TOKYO, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Crown Prince Akihito of Japan Monday received a message from Crown Prince Fahd. It was delivered by Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Anqari, minister of labor and social affairs, during a meeting here Monday.

The Japanese crown prince lauded the strong and cordial relations between his country and Saudi Arabia and said that he greatly admired the enormous development which he himself noticed during his

recent visit to the Kingdom.

Prince Akihito wished the government and people of Saudi Arabia further development and prosperity under the leadership of King Khaled and Crown Prince Fahd.

The meeting was attended by Rashad Mukhlis, undersecretary for social affairs and Hussein Abdul Karim Arkoubi, Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Tokyo.

Djibouti minister holds talks here

RIYADH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Finance and National Economy Minister Sheikh Muhammad Aha Al-Khail met Monday with the Djibouti Industry Minister Fahmi Ahmad Al-Hajj. They reviewed relations between the two countries in the economic field, it was announced.

The Djibouti minister also was received by Commerce Minister Dr. Soliman A. Solaim, later during the day. The meeting dealt with trade cooperation between the Kingdom and Djibouti.

Hajj, accompanied by a delegation, arrived here Sunday. He was welcomed by Industry and Electricity Minister Dr. Ghazi Algosaihi with whom he will hold talks.

Prayer Times

	Makkah	Madinah	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Tabuk
Tuesday						
Fajr (Dawn)	5:26	5:33	5:04	4:45	5:19	5:53
Dhuhr (Noon)	12:16	12:17	11:48	11:35	11:59	12:29
Asr (Afternoon)	3:20	3:16	2:47	3:31	2:55	3:21
Maghreb (Sunset)	5:42	5:37	5:08	4:51	5:15	5:40
Isha (Night)	7:12	7:07	6:38	6:21	6:45	7:10

Majed to open children exhibit

MAKKAH, Dec. 14 (SPA) — Makkah Governor Prince Majed will open Tuesday an exhibition for a Spanish commercial group dealing with toys for children. The show is organized by the Faisaliya Women's Society in cooperation with the Spanish Embassy.

Maissa Banaja, director of the society, said Monday that the exhibition's idea is to provide suitable toys for children. She added that Spanish Embassy presented the toys to the society so that it could benefit from the income. The show will run for three days beginning Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday the show will be opened to female visitors and children only.

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BRIEFS

NAMAS (SPA) — The Agricultural Bank here has given 41 loans to farmers worth SR25 million between June and October. The loans, which were given in the form of agricultural implements, are mostly on long-term basis to be repaid over a period of 10 years.

JEDDAH (SPA) — The Foreign Ministry held a dinner party Sunday to bid farewell to French Ambassador Michel Drumetz, who has completed his tenure in the Kingdom. Foreign Undersecretary Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Thunayan, other senior officials of the ministry and members of the Diplomatic Corps attended the function.

ABHA (SPA) — The Abha Vocational Training Center has announced that applicants for evening classes of industrial training may register themselves between Dec. 27 and

Jan. 10. The courses will cover electrical installations, plumbing, carpentry, welding, car mechanics and block and tile making.

RIYADH (SPA) — The Senate of Riyadh University has approved the appointment of Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Miteb as dean of the Faculty of Sciences for a period of three years.

AHSA (SPA) — Dr. Saleh Al-Fawzan, director of the High Institute of the Judiciary at the Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University, will deliver a lecture on education at the College of Sharia here next Sunday.

RIYADH (SPA) — A royal approval has been accorded to the General Presidency of Youth Welfare to give \$15,000 to Kenya's Olympic Committee, to help boost the sports activity in that country.

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Soviet-Afghan massacre against civilians reported

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Dec. 14 (AP) — Afghans arriving in this northwest Pakistan frontier town said Sunday that Soviet and Afghan troops gunned down more than two dozen elderly villagers during a recent offensive in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar.

Their accounts followed a broadcast last week by the state-owned Radio Kabul that more than 500 people were killed during successful security operations in the strategic province which borders Pakistan.

The refugees, who included self-described resistance fighters, told the Associated Press that many of the victims were women, children and the elderly caught in shelling aimed at flushing out armed resistance.

Several of the sources interviewed separately said they passed through the village of Hada where they said between 28 and 52 non-combatants were killed after Soviet and Afghan troops occupied the

area.

Zarullah Saharani, 30, said that the Dec. 2 incident began with the interrogation of elders about the disappearance of about 10 kilometers southwest of Jalalabad, the provincial capital. They also were offered cash payments for keeping anti-regime rebels out of the area, he said.

Fearing a possible reprisal, many of the elders decided to escape Hada but were shot while trying to flee, he claimed. Saharani, a Nangarhar native active in the resistance, said he was told by survivors that 43 were killed.

Two Afghan sources gave similar accounts of the summary execution of nine rebel suspects in Bihar village, about 30 kilometers southwest of Jalalabad. The suspects, who had been captured elsewhere, were transported aboard an armored vehicle to Bihar where they were identified as residents of Wazir, a nearby rebel-

controlled settlement.

"They were immediately condemned as rebels," said Khurshid Ahmad of Bihar. He claimed eight were shot through their eyes and the ninth had his throat cut by Soviet soldiers in sight of villagers.

The other informant, who declined to be identified out of fear of reprisals against his family, also said the nine were killed by Soviets but gave no further details.

Freedom fighters sources here reported heavy casualties in the Wazir and Kogiani areas of Nangarhar. One informant said 140 people were killed but independent verification of the figure was not possible.

Afghan ground troops backed by Soviet armor and helicopter gunships managed to recapture a string of outposts between Chaparhar and Torabora. Torabora, an important base of the Khalis faction of the Hezbi Islami (Islamic Party), was not taken but some accounts said it came under heavy bombardment.

Iraq calls for nuclear ban on Israel

Invited by Papandreou Arafat begins visit to Greece

ATHENS, Dec. 14 (AP) — Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, arrived here Monday under a thick shroud of secrecy for a three-day official visit.

Reporters waiting at Athens Airport, where he had been expected to land, were left empty handed, as the PLO leader was apparently flown to a military airport. Press ministry spokeswoman Marianna Koutsi confirmed that Arafat had arrived and "is at the foreign ministry," but declined to give further details of the arrival.

Massive police measures were taken for the protection of the Palestinian leader during his stay here.

Mrs. Koutsi said that Arafat will lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in

central Athens during the afternoon, and will meet privately with Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou at 200 local (1800 GMT).

Arafat was invited by Papandreou within a week of his taking power after the Oct. 18 general elections. In his invitation, Papandreou referred to the consistent support of the PLO for the Cypriot people, for which he thanked Arafat. He assured him of Greek solidarity with the Arabs, and in particular with the Palestinian people, of which the PLO is the sole representative, he said.

The invitation also mentioned the upgrading of the PLO office in Athens. Papandreou later said that he intended to grant the status of a diplomatic mission to the office, which opened in late 1980.

BAGHDAD, Dec. 14 (R) — Iraq, whose nuclear reactor near here was attacked by Israeli planes last June, has called for a worldwide embargo on the supply of weapons and nuclear technology to Israel.

A draft resolution put Sunday before a conference of labor ministers from nonaligned and other developing countries urged states "to refrain immediately from supplying Israel with weapons or any other similar equipment which enable it to attack other countries, and to abstain from supplying it with chemical informations and resources likely to enhance its nuclear potential."

Take controversial steps

Turkey generals seek to depoliticize state

ANKARA, Dec. 14 (ONS) — Fifteen months after their military coup, Turkey's ruling generals are locked in a bitter confrontation with the former politicians — and, more importantly, with several of the country's European allies who argue that the process of restoring democratic rule is much too slow.

The ruling junta, however, remains singularly impervious to external pressures; headed by the 63-year-old chief of general staff, Gen. Kenan Evren, it believes it knows what is best for the Turks, and that public opinion still supports the military regime.

On the latter point, the generals' confidence is probably justified. Popular opinion was epitomized recently in the comment of a sophisticated young intellectual whose political views are to the left rather than the right: "I want to live — first, I want to live in freedom — second, therefore I still support this regime." He was alluding to the fact that more than 5,000 people were killed by terrorists in the two years before the military takeover of Sept. 12, 1980.

In the past few weeks the generals have taken some odd and controversial steps which have raised doubts about their political acumen, though not their sincerity. The case which has riveted attention, both in Turkey and abroad, is the Ecevit affair.

On Nov. 3 a military tribunal in Ankara sentenced the former prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, to four months' imprisonment for issuing a statement to the press attacking the



Gen. Kenan Evren military regime. His action was a flagrant defiance of a military decree in June, banning the ex-politicians from any form of political activity. When the decree was announced, it was widely criticized as a blunder and commentators predicted that Ecevit would defy it.

Now 56, Ecevit is no longer the youthful darling of Turkish politics, and before the military coup his reputation had become tarnished. In the mid-1970s he was the idol of the intelligentsia and the hero of Turkish youth because as prime minister he ordered the invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

His defiance of the military has made him something of a hero again, although many people, including a large segment of his Republican People's Party, allege that he is deliberately courting martyrdom to regain his lost prestige. Whatever his motives, the prison sentence has caused dismay and doubt about the military's judgment.

No sooner had the generals blundered into the Ecevit swamp than on Nov. 9 they carried out a purge of TRT, the state radio and television service. About 100 employees — editors, producers and technicians — were reassigned to obscure duties in other government departments.

An experienced news editor was removed to a job in the artificial insemination section of the ministry of agriculture; a senior TV drama producer found himself in the natural disasters department of the ministry of housing. The government's explanation is that the 100 were surplus to TRT's establishment and that, as civil servants who could not be sacked, they had to be employed elsewhere.

Undeniably, the TRT has for years been grossly overstaffed, but the reassignment was obviously a political purge. Most of the 100 held left-wing views, although it has not been established that they had links with Marxist subversive organizations.

The moral of the TRT affair, if it has one, is that the generals are determined to depoliticize all branches of the state administration. That they will restore democratic rule in the end, there is not the slightest doubt.

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In first major exodus

Americans begin leaving Libya

TRIPOLI, Dec. 14 (AP) — Sixty-seven employees of the American Mobil Corp. and their families, given flowers by the Libyan government, departed on a chartered airliner Monday in line with the Reagan administration's orders.

It was the first major exodus of Americans from Libya since the White House invalidated U.S. passports last Thursday for travel to Libya, and warned it would take legal steps if necessary to force the estimated 1,500 Americans here to evacuate.

Reagan said their safety was imperiled because of what he called increasing hostility toward the United States.

The order coincided with reports that Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi had dispatched a "hit squad" to the United States with orders to assassinate Reagan or other top officials. Qaddafi has denied the reports and the Libyan regime has repeatedly said

U.S. citizens are welcome and safe here.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Larry Speakes said a deadline for the evacuation was not set although Reagan hoped it would be "done expeditiously."

A Mobil Corp. spokesman told the Associated Press that a few key American personnel would remain here, however, and that the firm plans some operations by non-American personnel.

The Mobil executives and other officials with U.S. petroleum concerns interviewed here Sunday asked that they not be identified by name, in accordance with their companies' policies.

Executives said they had hoped to be able to keep American employees in Libya for two or three months, to allow the employees time for an orderly withdrawal. But they said Washington was insistent the departures be sooner.

"We've asked for 90 days, 60 and 30, but they keep saying no," an American executive said.

"As far as Americans being in danger, it's baloney," said a top U.S. oil executive, who added that he voted for Reagan and was "as pro-American as anybody can get."

Several Americans said they thought the U.S. administration was trying "to teach Qaddafi a lesson" — in the words of a teacher at the oil company school for employees' children. The school, which has 70 American teachers and a student body of 900 drawn from 51 nationalities, will remain open at least until Jan. 1, officials said.

The Libyan government gave the Americans bunches of red, white and pink carnations wrapped in cellophane as farewell presents before they entered customs at Tripoli's modern international airport.

"We are civilized people," said Salim Farkash, the top Libyan executive at Mobil, who came to the airport to bid them goodbye.

Libya has expedited exit visas and generally cooperated with Americans in an apparent effort to show its goodwill and possibly convince the Americans to stay.

The U.S. government called on Americans to leave because it claimed they weren't safe in Libya, but Americans insisted they felt secure. "It's far safer here than in the States. There's a lot more crime there," an American lady said.

Arab League condemns extradition of Abu Ain

TUNIS, Dec. 14 (Agencies) — Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, Monday condemned the extradition from the United States to Israel of a wanted Palestinian, Ziad Abu Ain, as "a flagrant violation of international laws and practices."

He also said in a statement from Arab League headquarters here that the decision was "a surrender to Israeli pressure and at the same time showing the score reserved for relations between the United States and all the Arab nation."

Klibi said the decision was "an act of solidarity with the repressive and criminal measures which hit Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories." Klibi called for condemnation of the extradition by the international community and the United Nations.

In the meantime, Jordan has expressed regret at the deportation of Abu Ain. "Jordan — king, government and people — regrets this decision," an official statement said.

Egypt releases 17 detainees

CAIRO, Dec. 14 (R) — Former Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Zayyat and 16 other politicians, journalists and lawyers detained three months ago were released from jail Sunday, family sources said. They were arrested in a massive roundup in September on charges of conspiring with the Soviet Union to stir up sectarian strife.

Egypt's prosecutor-general dropped the charges Saturday for lack of evidence. The Socialist prosecutor decided Sunday not to keep other charges against the 17, clearing the way for their release.

President Hosni Mubarak has pledged to free all detainees found to be innocent of

criminal offenses. Last month he released 31 politicians and journalists, including Muhammad Hassanein Heykal, former editor of *Al-Ahram* newspaper. Besides Zayyat, those released Sunday included two former ministers, three left-wing journalists and three former members of parliament.

The late President Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated by religious extremists had arrested 1,600 of his religious and political critics the previous month.

The crackdown also led to the expulsion of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo, six officials of the Soviet Embassy and about 1,000 Russian experts working in Egyptian industry.

Israel fails to OK strategic pact

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (AFP) — The Israeli cabinet has refused by a majority vote to approve the U.S.-Israeli military agreement signed in Washington two weeks ago by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon without the cabinet being fully aware of its contents.

A government spokesman said Sunday the vote was a protest against Sharon, who was absent from the first part of the meeting.

Observers noted that many of Sharon's colleagues have protested his "personal power" and the Labor opposition has several times

recently attacked his "dictatorship." The agreement nevertheless is accepted in principle and cannot be rescinded.

Also at Sunday's meeting, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reported on his talks here last week with French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. Shamir noted that none of the four West European countries that have agreed to take part in the multinational Sinai force — Britain, France, Italy, and the Netherlands — have yet replied to the U.S.-Israeli statement stipulating the conditions of such participation.

Kuwait raps execution of POWs

KUWAIT, Dec. 14 (AP) — Kuwait Monday condemned the reported execution by Iran of Iraqi prisoners of war, and attempts to undermine stability and security in Bahrain.

"Kuwait condemns and denounces the execution of the Iraqi POWs which violates the principles of Islam, international conventions and human values," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"Kuwait also denounces and condemns

attempts to create anarchy and undermines the stability in the sisterly state of Bahrain and other states," he said.

"While Kuwait condemns such actions, announces its absolute support to the sisterly state of Bahrain, as well as standing against any attempt to disturb and undermine the security and stability of Bahrain," the spokesman added.

Tripartite panel meets in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Dec. 14 (AFP) — The defense and security committee of Libya, Ethiopia and South Yemen held high-level discussions here Sunday on "issues of major importance," the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported.

The meeting was headed on the Libyan side by visiting Libyan No. 2 Maj. Abdul-

salam Jallud, by Deputy Premier Fisseha Desta on the Ethiopian side and Deputy Prime Minister and local administration Minister Ali Antar for South Yemen. ENA said.

Jallud arrived here Thursday for a five-day visit but it was the first time Antar's presence in the country had been reported.

Khomeini followers breaking laws, Iran prosecutor says

BEIRUT, Dec. 14 (AP) — Iran's prosecutor general said Monday many headline followers of Ayatollah Khomeini think just because they are loyal to the regime "they can do what they please," Tehran radio reported.

Broadcasting an interview with Ayatollah Amlashi, the radio quoted him as saying that fanatic members of the Hezbollah (party of God) think that unless they break the law "they will get nothing done."

"This culture exists among the people, to a certain extent, and members of the Hezbollah which makes them think that just because they are Hezbollahis, they can do whatever they wish, in any manner they see fit," he added.

Amlashi did not cite any examples of how he said the Hezbollahis, a hardcore group of Khomeini loyalists, have broken laws.

Amlashi accused the country's revolutionary courts, revolutionary guards and the foundation of the oppressed — all organizations born after the 1979 revolution — of

breaking the law since the overthrow of the monarchy in February 1979.

"They think they have done the revolutionary acts, which in fact have not been within the frameworks of the law, and these have caused problems for the people and authorities," Amlashi said in remarks which were aired by the state-controlled radio station.

He said that "the people do break the law" because "they think that is the only way to do things." The only way to counter this, he added, "is to convince the people that in the future all complaints received by judicial authorities will be looked into."

Amlashi's statement came six days after Khomeini ordered a ban on arbitrary arrests and confiscation of wealth in revolutionary Iran.

Meanwhile, the official Pars news agency quoted Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi announcing Iran's willingness to send "experts" to Libya if needed. He did not say what kind of experts he was offering.

BRIEFS

CAIRO, (AP) — With the approval of President Hosni Mubarak, the late President Anwar Sadat's resthouse near the great Pyramids was demolished Monday as the first part of a clean-up of the area. This presidency resthouse is one of more than 300 weekend cottages and tourist centers dotting the desert next to the 50,000-year-old monuments.

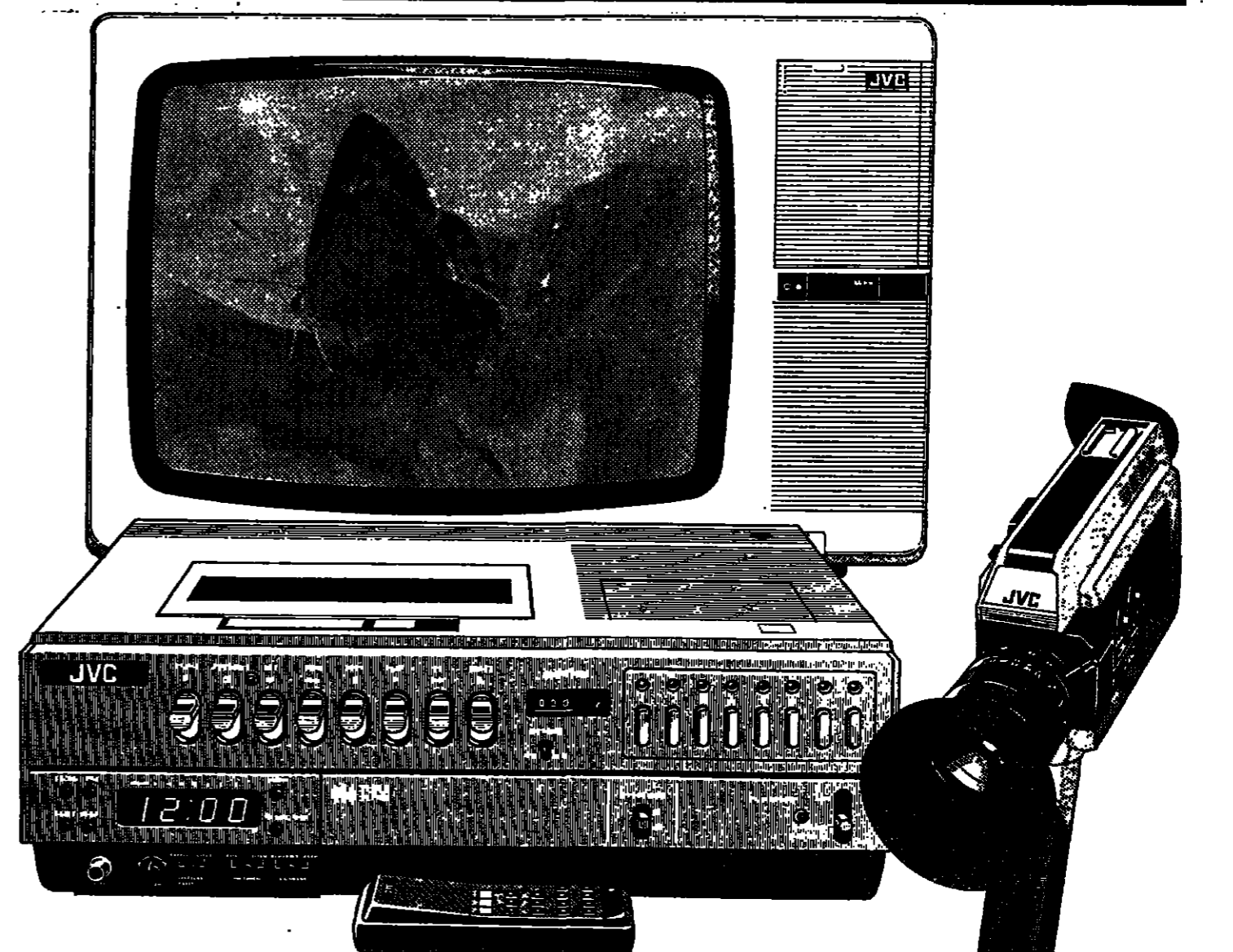
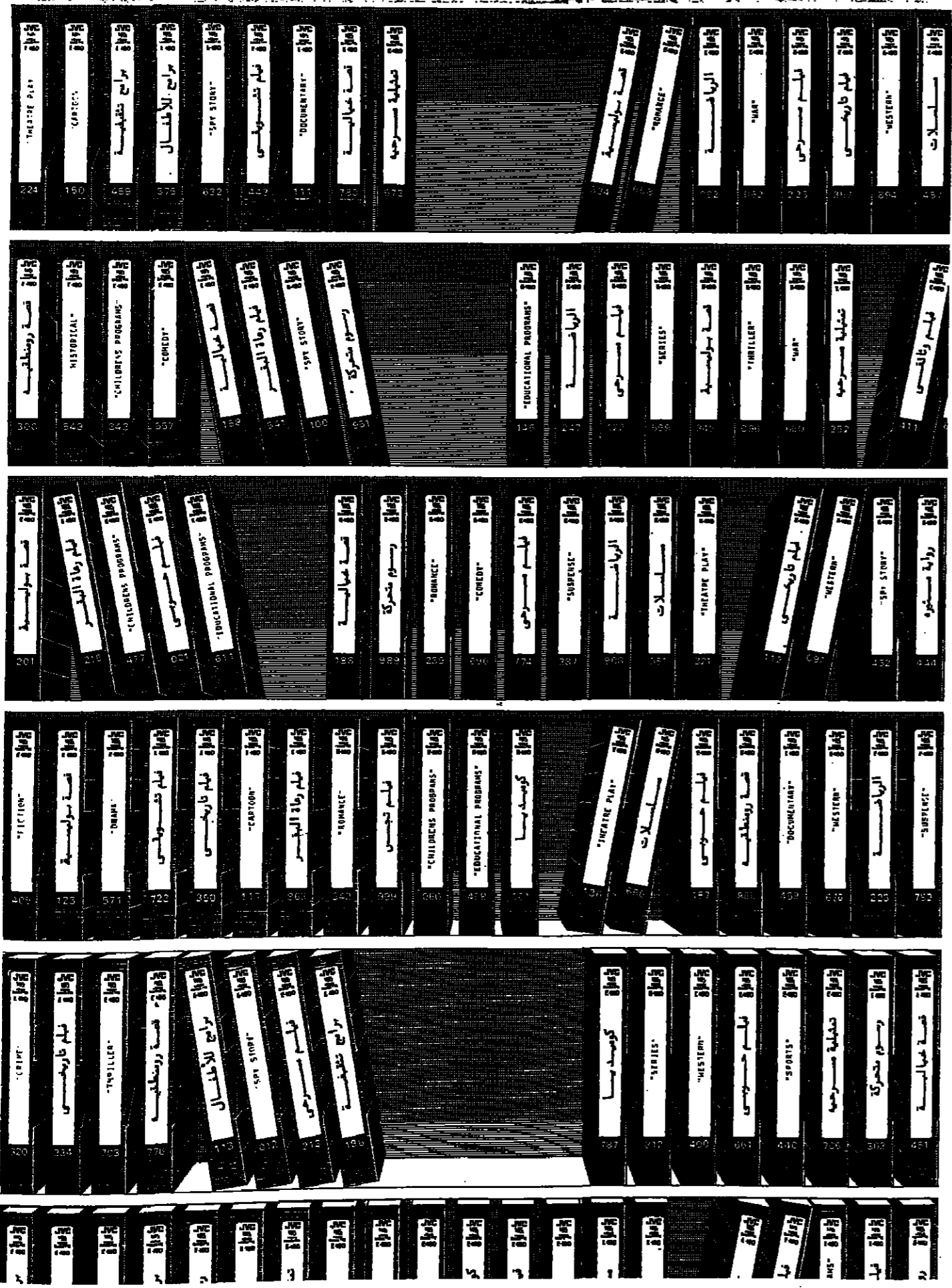
TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli military court in the occupied Gaza Strip fined 13 Palestinian shopkeepers Sunday for disobeying soldiers' instructions to keep their stores open during a general strike last week.

KUWAIT, (R) — President Joao Bernardo Viera of Guinea Bissau arrived Monday for a two-day state visit and talks on possible economic Kuwaiti aid to his West African country, officials said.

TEL AVIV, (AP) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin was released from the hospital in a wheelchair Monday after breaking a hip joint in a bathroom fall, and immediately summoned his cabinet to his home, Begin's spokesman said.

KHARTOUM, (AFP) — Freedom fighters struggling for the independence of the Ethiopian province of Tigre claimed to have killed and wounded 157 Ethiopian troops and captured 33 others in four separate battles in southwest Tigre last week.

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British 'tilting train' an acute embarrassment

By Graham Stewart

LONDON, (R) — Introduced as the pride of British railways, a revolutionary high-speed "tilting" train has turned into an acute embarrassment in the first week of operation. "It must be jinxed," lamented one official of the ill-fated debut of the 37-million sterling (\$70-million) superliner.

With much fanfare the new train was launched on the run from Scotland's biggest city, Glasgow, to London and performed perfectly, cutting an hour off the regular journey. The secret was a unique tilt mechanism enabling it to go around the numerous curves along the winding railway track at high speed.

Though nearly two years behind schedule, the train pulled into London's Euston station completing the 401-mile (645-km) maiden trip in four hours, 4 minutes hitting a top speed of 137 miles per hour (220 kph). Delighted officials promptly hailed it a great success.

Then it set out on the return journey ... and things started going wrong.

Three times on the trip back to Glasgow the tilting suspension failed. It was designed to keep the coaches on an even keel as the train sped around bends. But it didn't tilt when it was supposed to.

The result was chaos. Passengers were nearly thrown out of their seats, drinks were spilled, food went sliding across tables, and the electronic doors jammed.

It was so bad in the last of the six coaches that red-faced officials on state-run British rail suggested passengers should leave for their own comfort and move to the front of the train. Most of the passengers took the advice. Some were feeling queasy from the roller-coaster ride.

Engineers went to work to correct the tilting mechanism and the superliner, called the Advanced Passenger Train (APT) in British rail parlance, set out again for London. Worse embarrassment was to come.

The experimental train got just 37 miles (59 km) out of Glasgow when it stopped in its tracks. The sophisticated braking system had iced up in the coldest spell of the winter.

The train had to be towed back to the nearest station, where 60 frustrated passengers got out to wait for another one. To add insult to injury, the next train was an hour late.

The same thing happened the next day. It broke down once more and was towed in, again, to the chagrin of British rail officials.

The travelling public began to lose faith in the APT. "The designers obviously haven't done their homework," complained Alistair MacDonald, who missed an important business appointment in London when it broke down.

Even on the triumphant first trip, the supertrain got mixed reviews. The high-speed ride was not as smooth as many

expected, and the swaying made some passengers sick.

"It tilted my stomach a little too much," wrote the *London Sun*'s Colin Dunne. "British rail made the going queasier for me and I couldn't face my beautifully grilled kippers."

British rail guard Richard Hornby, 35 years on the job, said: "If I've got to be honest, sometimes it's magnificent, sometimes it's horrible."

One satisfied customer was glamorous TV personality Lisa St. Clair. The crew made an unscheduled stop at Penrith to let her off and landed themselves in trouble with their bosses.

British rail has built three APT prototypes and they will go into daily service on the London-Glasgow run in January.

The railway wants to build 60 of the supertrains to go into full service in the early 1990s, requiring an investment from the government of 300 million sterling (\$570 million).

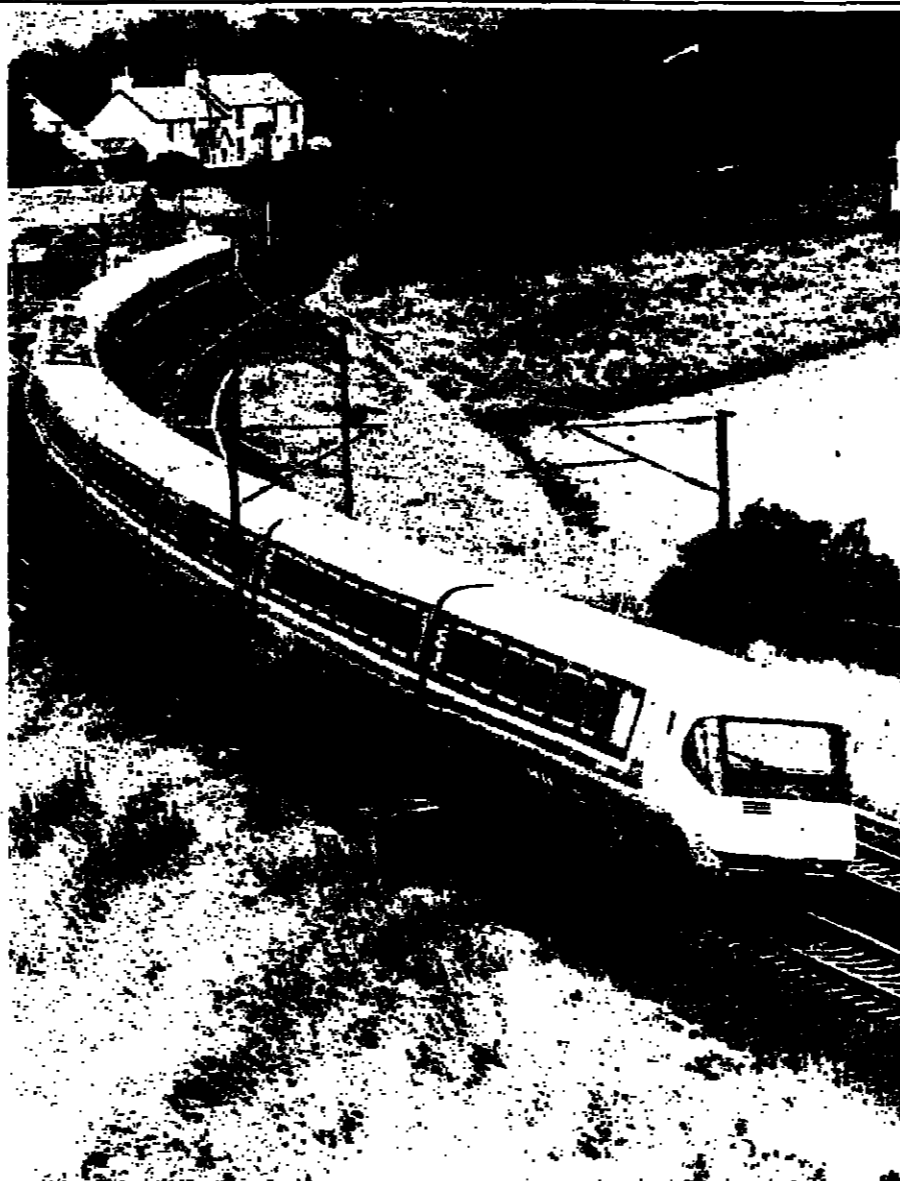
But British rail officials point out that this is still far cheaper than the French version of the APT.

That cost 400 million sterling (\$760 million) plus 640 million sterling (\$1.22 billion) to eliminate the bends in the track from Paris to Lyon.

However, the straight line means the French train, with a top speed of more than 160 mph (255 kph), has no tilting problem.

British rail sees the new supertrain competing with the airlines, providing a quick service much cheaper than flying.

A second-class ticket from London to Glasgow costs 30.50 sterling (\$58) compared with 57 sterling (\$108) by plane. But the high-speed train still takes three hours longer.



TILTING TRAIN: Shown here is the British Superliner on its way between Glasgow and London. The initial trip was fine, ensuing trips were very embarrassing.

Thriftiness made Gabrovo Bulgarian 'joke capital'

By Colin McLartyre

GABROVO, Bulgaria, (R) — For a town claiming to have the world's only international center of humor, Gabrovo seems a pretty ordinary sort of a place. Those who visit this acknowledged joke capital of Bulgaria expecting to be confronted at every street corner by Gabrovians exclaiming breathlessly "have you heard the one about..." will be sorely disappointed.

A drab industrial town of 90,000 inhabitants nestled under a permanent haze in the valley of the river Yantra, some 135 miles (220 kms) east of Sofia, it was known in the past as "The Bulgarian Manchester" for its concentration of textile factories.

The centuries-long battle to scratch a relatively prosperous existence from unpromisingly bare terrain has produced, according to Bulgarians, an industrious, inventive and quick-witted population and spawned a whole genre of jokes celebrating, above all, their thriftiness.

In this, they have close affinity with the Scots, a fact that was recognized some years ago and has led to the twinning of Gabrovo with the north-eastern Scottish city of Aberdeen.

One classic Gabrovo joke has a Scot and a Gabrovian attending a free theater performance at which a collection for charity is unexpectedly organized. The Scot faints on the spot, and the Gabrovian carries him out of the building.

This stinginess is also reflected in the town's omnipresent symbol of a black cat without a tail. According to what must be the original Gabrovo joke, residents cut off their cats' tails so they can close the door faster and

thus save heat when the animals are let out in winter.

Every two years the tail is ceremoniously cut off a huge cardboard cat in the town center to launch a national festival of laughter that has been going on since the mid-1950s, when local pride in the town's cultural heritage began to awaken.

What really put Gabrovo on the world map, however, was a decision in the spring of 1971 to establish an international center of humor and satire.

"To our astonishment, we found it was the only one of its kind in the world," said Stefan Fartunov, the director of the center.

The idea quickly took root in many countries, and the town was soon deluged with contributions from abroad. To date some 25,000 individual donations, cartoons, books, paintings, humorous sculptures, have come in from east and west.

Though somewhat unnerved by their sudden rise to international prominence, the town's elders set about building a permanent home for the growing collection.

The first section, containing exhibition rooms, a cinema and offices, was opened in 1975, and the complex is being extended to include a library, a theater, a park and an international-class hotel.

Work has also started on a world anthology of cartoons and a humor almanac entitled *Apropos*, to be published in six languages.

The center has also organized an annual festival of humorous films, with a statuette of the late comic genius Charlie Chaplin as first prize. At the inaugural festival last year the jury decided not to award the prize, which set off a new round of jokes about Gabrovo meanness.

"We keep right away from politics, concentrating on things that unite rather than divide people," Fartunov said. "As an indication of how humor can bring people together, this center has relations with more countries than the Bulgarian government."

"Our aim is to increase understanding among different nations by popularizing their humor," he said. "For instance, by showing that what makes Japanese laugh and leaves Italians unmoved may help them learn a little more about each other."

Fartunov said he was struck by the common origins of traditional humorous characters in many countries. Bulgaria's historic comic figure, "Artful Peter," has counterparts in 19 other countries with roots going back to India and China.

"Most humor springs from human weaknesses that are the same world over," he said. "Societies have to be able to laugh at these weaknesses in order to develop."

"Present-day humor tends to be on the black side, an unfortunate sign of the unsettled times we live in," he said. "The world needs laughter now as never before."

Rare collection of animals decorates Swiss bank

By Marianne McGowan

CLEVELAND, Ohio, (AP) — Cobras from ancient Egypt, bulls from Mesopotamia and dogs from the Roman empire wandered into Leo Mildenberg's life while he was looking for lions to decorate his bank in Zurich. His subsequent search for animal figures from antiquity taught him that ancient man was fascinated with animals, the Swiss banker and art collector said.

The fascination rubbed off on Mildenberg, whose collection is touring five U.S. museums before it goes to Europe. Mildenberg began the collection 32 years ago with figures of lions.

"My first name, Leo, means 'lion' and the name of my bank, Leu, also means 'lion,'" Mildenberg said in a recent visit here, where

his exhibit premiered at the Cleveland Museum of Art. He is a director of Bank Leu in Zurich.

"I been to buy lions and then found myself with whole menageries — many horses, hippopotamus, even mice, serpents, baboons and apes."

Mildenberg, 69, was interested only in peaceful representations of animals. He avoided figures of animals who were hunting or in battle, horses being ridden and unicorns. But he found that representations of sleeping dogs, nursing cows and quacking ducks were plentiful.

"There was enough material," he said. "The peaceful animal is a main object of ancient art everywhere; ancient artists gave their best efforts observing and creating representations of the animal."

The 250 works mostly figurines, come

from the Near East, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Sicily; the oldest pieces are stone figures, including a leopard, which date to the 4th millennium B.C. The most recent is a Byzantine bird mosaic from about 1080 A.D.

"I am a numismatist," said Mildenberg, who organized his bank's coin department. "My speciality is ancient coins. As I could not compete with my clients, I saw something near to coins — engravings — so I began with that basic idea."

Arielle P. Kozloff, associate curator of ancient art at the Cleveland Museum, wrote the catalog and a children's story based on the pieces.

Man's attitude toward animals evolved from one of mysticism to one of companionship, Kozloff said.

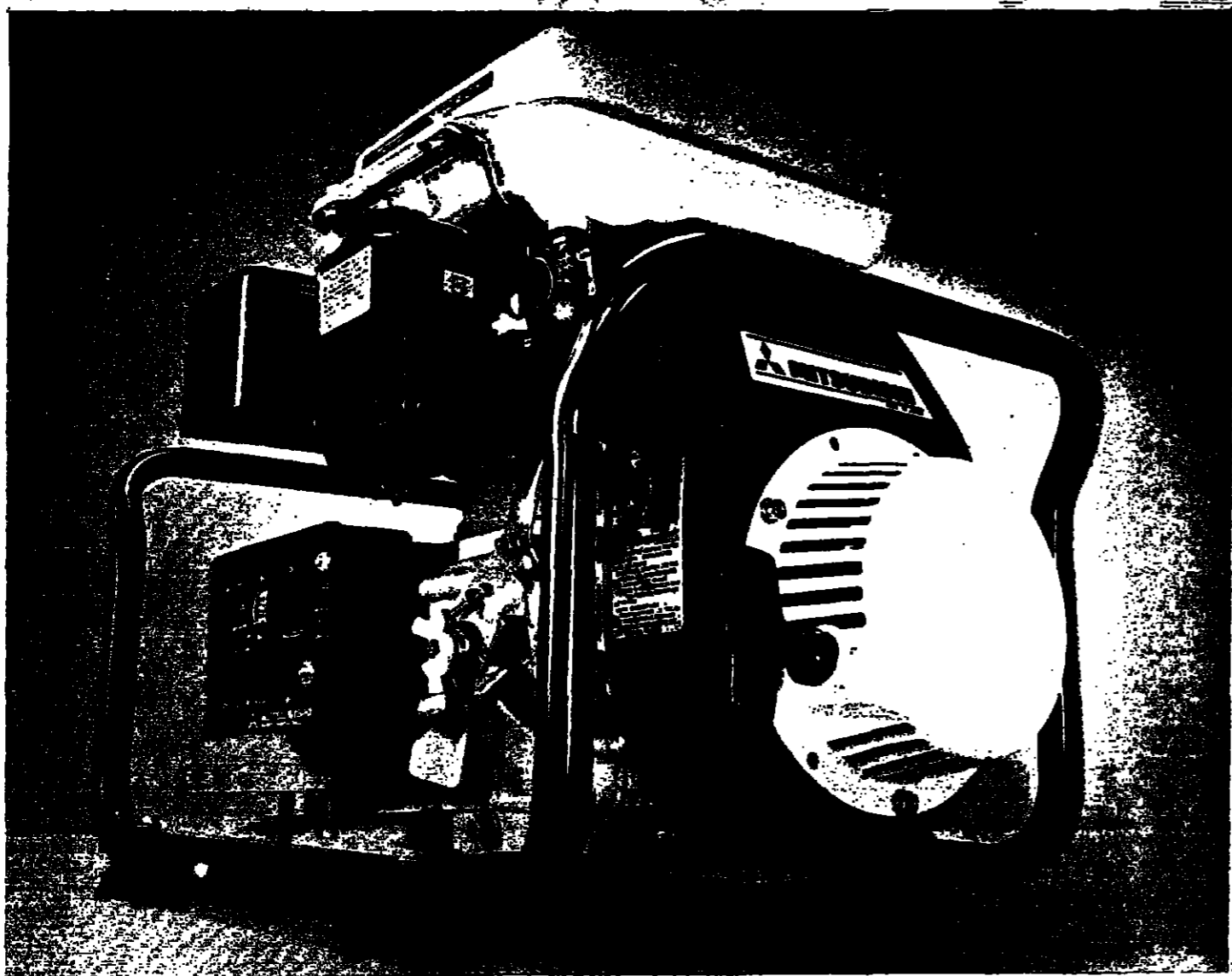
"The most ancient ones (pieces) come

from a time when certain animals were thought to have magical characteristics and many types of animals were worshipped for their own special traits," she said.

For example, in what is now Turkey, the ancient Hitites believed that the earth rested on the horns of a bull. Kozloff said that could have been how they explained earthquakes in the region. She also said it's the likely source of a Turkish fairy tale that the world rests on the horns of an ox and that it trembles whenever he shakes his head.

In ancient Rome, animals began to be kept as pets. The collection contains a glass cameo of a dog inside a gold brooch from that period.

The collection also includes a duck oil lamp, a rattle for a child, bird earrings and serpent bracelets.



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Over arms sales to Taipei

China may downgrade U.S. ties

PEKING, Dec. 14 (AP) — China will downgrade relations if the United States sells weapons to the Republic of China and top leader Deng Xiaoping would have to step down if he tolerated such sales, well-informed Chinese sources said Monday.

The sources, who asked not to be named, told the Associated Press that China would not tolerate the sale of "a single rifle" to Taipei, but did not elaborate.

"We will downgrade," said one, in answer to questions. "Look what happened to the Netherlands," he said referring to China's downgrading of relations over the Dutch sale of two submarines to Taipei last spring.

The sources, including one official, are familiar with China's reunification strategy. They called U.S. arms sales the major obstacle to reunification.

The comments were made in answer to questions, as an explanation of China's position, not as a public statement or a threat.

China never has said publicly that it would downgrade relations over weapons sales, but has hinted at such action. The United States reportedly has not decided how to fulfill its defense obligation to Taipei.

The sources also said Communist Party vice chairman Deng Xiaoping told U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig last June in Peking that arms sales to Taipei meant an American "two-China" policy.

Deng said if the current leadership tolerated that, the Chinese people would be so indignant that the leadership would lose prestige and would be obliged to leave office, they said.

They emphasized Deng's leadership was

strong and secure but said a few people who do not want to cooperate with the Nationalist regime in Taipei argue that China's reunification offer is too generous.

Deng normalized relations with the United States in January 1979 and has staked his political dignity on the mutual benefit and strategic importance of Sino-U.S. ties.

Asked if China was preparing for possible downgrading of diplomatic ties with the United States, the sources said it was obvious from newspaper commentaries that the Chinese people are being prepared mentally.

If Taipei rejoins the mainland, they said, the central government will make arrangements for national defense and will allow Taipei to manufacture some weapons. "We will not try to impose socialism on the island," they said.

No unofficial government contacts between Peking and Taipei have taken place, they said.

Lawyer being hired for Seychelles raiders

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec. 14 (AP) — Mercenary leader Col. Michael "Mad Mike" Hoare says a lawyer is being hired to defend soldiers of fortune left behind during last month's abortive coup attempt in the Seychelles islands.

The South African Press Association reported Hoare had released a brief statement from his home near Pietermaritzburg saying a prominent European lawyer had been contacted about the case.

Hoare said permission was being sought from Seychelles President Albert Rene for the unnamed lawyer to represent the captured mercenaries.

Hoare allegedly led an attempt to over-

throw Rene that fell through Nov. 25 when airport customs officials discovered weapons hidden in the luggage of a band of mercenaries.

Hoare and 43 other mercenaries fled aboard an Air-India jet that was hijacked and forced to fly to Durban, South Africa. Six other alleged mercenaries were left behind and captured.

Meanwhile, Seychelles Foreign Minister Jacques Hodoul said Sunday the Seychelles has the full backing of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in its call for an enquiry under United Nations auspices to investigate the mercenary invasion of the country.

In a telephone interview with AFP, Hodoul said he was given assurances of OAU backing during a meeting with the organization's officials here. The minister arrived in Addis Ababa Sunday with a message from President Rene for Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Hodoul said the African group at the United Nations was working toward the establishment of an enquiry commission and he expected that the Security Council would mandate the U.N. secretary-general by late next week to go ahead with its formation.

The Ethiopian government had also declared its support for the Seychelles request for the enquiry commission, he said.

4 parties to govern Belgium

BRUSSELS, Dec. 14 (R) — Leaders of four center-right political parties agreed Monday to govern Belgium on a program demanding a cut of up to three percent in real wages, the country's likely new prime minister, Wilfried Martens, said.

Martens told reporters a coalition of Flemish and French-speaking liberals and Social Christians would also seek special powers for 12 months so that it could face urgent measures to revive Belgium's sick economy.

Martens announced bare details of the agreement after protracted negotiations between the four parties' leaders ended before dawn.

Martens, a lawyer who has led four short-lived governments since April 1979, said the toughest bargaining was on ways to limit the government's 1982 budget deficit to \$5 billion. He said this goal could be achieved mainly through spending cuts.

Once-prosperous Belgium has run into serious economic problems. The decay of traditional industries and loss of export

markets due to huge domestic costs increased unemployment up to nearly 11 percent.

The growing cost of unemployment benefits, state subsidies to unprofitable industries and the high cost of borrowing to the public sector meant intense pressure on Belgium's politicians to put their economic house in order.

But the country has experienced a rapid succession of unstable coalition administrations. The continuing deterioration in the state's finances has intensified pressure against the Belgian franc on foreign exchange markets.

Belgium's last government of Social Christians and Socialists fell apart in September because of French-speaking Socialists' demands for more aid for the ailing Walloonian Steel Industry.

In the general election the politically opposed Socialists and right-wing liberals performed well at the expense of the Social Christians.

Sakharov relative gets passport

MOSCOW, Dec. 14 (R) — Liza Alexeyeva, the woman for whom Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and his wife staged a 17-day hunger strike, Monday received a foreign travel passport allowing her to emigrate to the West.

Miss Alexeyeva, 26, said emigration authorities who handed over her travel papers had told her she would have to leave the Soviet Union by Dec. 21. She told Western correspondents: "I am very happy."

The move allows Miss Alexeyeva to join Alexei Semyonov, her husband-by-proxy, in the United States. Semyonov is the son of Sakharov's wife, Yelena Bonner. Sakharov,

60, and Mrs. Bonner, 58, staged the hunger strike, which left them seriously weakened, in protest at the Soviet authorities' repeated refusal to allow Miss Alexeyeva to emigrate.

The couple ended their fast in a hospital in Gorky, the provincial town where Sakharov is in exile, after hearing that the authorities had a change of heart.

Moscow at first said it did not recognize the validity of the proxy ceremony uniting Miss Alexeyeva and Semyonov, and argued that her parents were opposed to her emigrating. But the authorities later announced that Miss Alexeyeva's parents had withdrawn their objections.

The sources emphasized that the United States should not underestimate China's national pride or think that China so desperately needs the United States it is afraid to see the relationship change. China wants the ties to expand and does not want to downgrade them, they said.

"If the Soviet Union invades us, how will the United States help China?" asked one. "Will they send troops?...The United States need us against the Soviet Union. We are tying up a million Soviet troops along our border."

China has opposed weapons sales all along, even at the time of normalization, they said. But they agreed China's public statements have become tougher. They said statements by the Reagan administration have forced China to clarify its position. U.S. President Ronald Reagan appears "unfriendly" to China compared to former President Jimmy Carter, they said.

Last week diplomatic sources quoted an influential Chinese military officer and other officials as saying privately that China would downgrade relations over weapons sales.

China never has said that sales of large numbers of sophisticated weapons would provoke a more serious response than would limited sales of less advanced weapons.

Meanwhile, China's united front organization called Monday for the return of Nationalist China and declared that Peking opposes any outside interference in the Taiwan problem, an apparent reference to U.S. arms sales.

In its closing session, it adopted a resolution saying, "the Chinese people firmly oppose any actions which interfere in China's internal affairs and impede the reunification of the country."

China calls U.S. weapons sales to the Republic of China a violation of China's sovereignty over Taiwan. It calls such sales meddling in China's domestic affairs.

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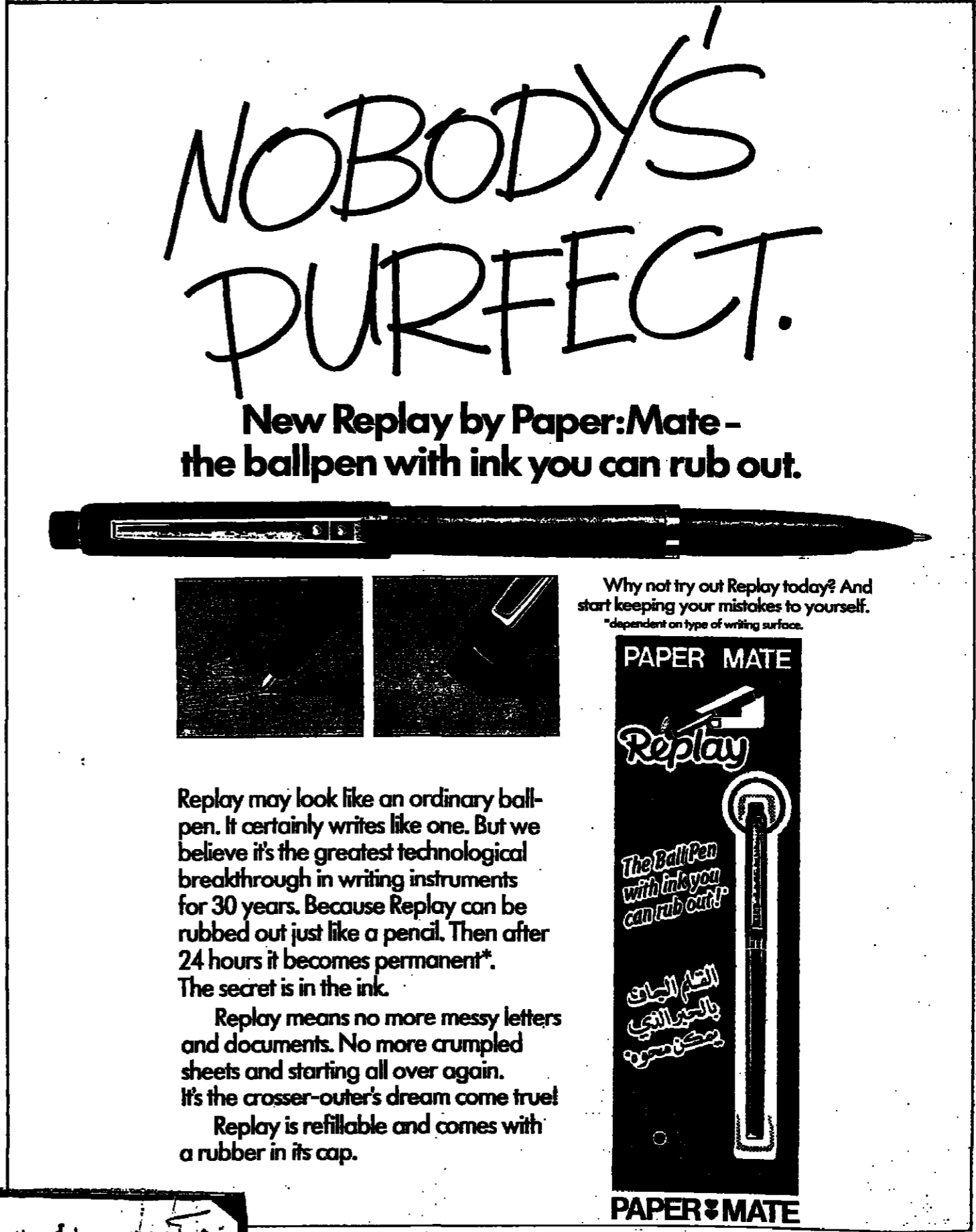
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PAPER MATE

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To loosen grip on Indochina

ASEAN increasing drive against Viets

BANGKOK, Dec. 14 (AFP) — Non-Communist Southeast Asian nations sharpened their drive to prevent Vietnam's consolidation of its grip on Indochina in 1981.

ported by the Soviet Union, meanwhile forged ahead with the creation of new allied political structures in Indochina.

China, furious at the emergence of a coordinated pro-Soviet grouping on its southern flank, continued to do what it could to bleed Vietnam white in an apparent bid to eliminate it as a regional power.

domination of Cambodia. ASEAN initiated a U.N.-sponsored international conference to seek the withdrawal of the 150,000-200,000 Vietnamese troops in Cambodia since ousting the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge government and capturing Phnom Penh on Jan. 7, 1979.

For separatism Quebec steps up pressure

QUEBEC, Dec. 14, (ONs) — The momentum of Quebec separatism has been increased by the cleverly self-imposed exclusion of the Levesque government from the agreement between the nine other provinces and the federal government, and the successful passage recently of Canada's constitutional resolution through the Ottawa House of Commons.

the event, the final agreement will leave Quebec with less than it has now. Rene Levesque, the provincial premier, will be attempting to block the final stages of the proposals by going to the Supreme Court on the grounds that constitutional change affecting the province's status cannot go ahead without the province's agreement.

China hails De Cuellar's election

PEKING, Dec. 14 (AP) — The election of Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru as United Nations secretary-general was a "great victory for the Third World," China's leading newspaper said.

For a long time, the paper said, "under the influence and control of the big powers, the United Nations was unable to reflect fully the desire of the numerous medium and small nations."

FBI confirms taking hold of secret code

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (R) — The secret code card to be used by President Ronald Reagan to authenticate nuclear strike orders was taken from him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after he was shot March 30, an FBI spokesman said.

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GARBAGE: A sea of garbage lines the street alongside the Chrysler building Monday. The strike by the local teamsters' union against the nearly 500 private carting companies in New York has entered its fourteenth day Tuesday.

MP's arrest linked to Zimbabwe coup plot

SALISBURY, Dec. 14 (AFP) — The white member of Zimbabwe's Parliament arrested last week on suspicion of plotting a coup d'etat was linked with six whites detained last month on similar accusations, official sources said Monday.

the Republican Front Party of former Prime Minister Ian Smith, W.D. Walker, was being sought in the same connection.

Four white men and two women — including the leader of a far-right political party, dentist Francis Bertrand — were arrested in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city, in mid-November. Police said at the time that they had discovered a "plot to endanger the security of the state" and had recovered a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Nicaraguan minister arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW, Dec. 14 (AP) — Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann arrived in Moscow Monday after a two-day stop-over in Leningrad, the Soviet news agency Tass reported. D'Escoto was met by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and other Soviet officials, Tass said.

On Saturday, Soviet media hailed D'Escoto's arrival in the Soviet Union and said his official visit, the first to be paid by a Nicaraguan foreign minister to the Soviet Union, would serve the strengthening of "utmost cooperations" between the two countries.

BRIEFS

PARIS, (AFP) — The Soviet Union's goal is to dominate "Europe and the rest of the world," Ecan Galbraith, the new American ambassador in Paris, said in an interview published Monday in the Socialist daily newspaper Le Matin.

BISSAU, (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau head of state Gen. Aoua Bernardo Vieira left here Sunday for visits to Kuwait, France and Belgium. France is helping Guinea-Bissau in agriculture, fishing and mineral prospecting and last March agreed to give the West African former Portuguese colony \$3.6 million worth of aid.

LONDON, (AFP) — The first British test-tube twins are due to be born here next June, conceived by treatment paid for by the national health system. Eleven test-tube babies have so far been born in Britain since 1978, and 12 in Australia, including a pair of twins now seven months old. The treatment in a private clinic costs around 2,000 pounds (\$4,000).

NOUMEA, (AFP) — French Secretary for Overseas Territories Henri Emmanuelli Sunday opened a five-day visit to New Caledonia with a speech defending the recent decision of the French government to legislate by decree to counter "the tension that has continuously gotten worse" since the murder of autonomy leader Pierre Declercq, Emmanuelli, who will present the French government's plans to the troubled Pacific Ocean island's Territorial Assembly, said over television and radio that "tensions are the product of a long history."

COPENHAGEN, (AFP) — Non-Socialist parties maintained a razor-thin majority of one in the Danish Parliament despite election recounts which resulted in a vital seat changing hands on Sunday. The recount of ballots from last Tuesday's legislative elections gave the Socialist People's Party an additional seat and took one away from the Liberals. But the non-Socialist parties still held 90 of the 179 seats in the Folketing, Denmark's single-chamber legislature.

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With mounting inflation

Canada hit by worst recession

OTTAWA, Dec. 14 (R) — Canada is sliding into one of its worst recessions for years. Stores have slashed prices ahead of the festival, big companies such as car manufacturers have laid off thousands of workers and homeowners have had trouble renewing

home loans at record interest rates. Although the government of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has adopted strict monetarist policies to fight inflation, there is no sign of inflation coming down.

Using record interest rates, several points above those in the United States, Ottawa deliberately brought about the recession in an attempt to curb inflation, according to economists in the private sector. They said Canada had never before faced the problems of recession, high interest rates and persistent inflation at the same time. "There is a risk of overkill, the economy is in rough shape," said investment analyst Roger Keane.

Opposition politicians have warned that the government's monetary policies could harm the Canadian economy saying similar tactics had harmed Britain. Signs of recession abound, though no government minister has yet acknowledged a downturn and Trudeau said Canada's economy was performing better than those of most other Western industrialized countries.

Economic activity in Canada plunged four percent at an annual rate from July to September this year. Several economists expected a further drop of up to eight percent in the current quarter, which would technically put the country in a recession, defined by some experts as two consecutive quarters of flat or declining economic activity. Analysts said the current malady was more wide-

spread and probably deeper than at any time since world war two.

Housing construction has been badly hit and car sales have slumped. Mining and fishing, mainstays of life in some provinces, face severe downturns and even Canada's powerful farmers face bankruptcies and a possible 15 percent fall in income next year. Company profits tumbled 5.8 percent in the third quarter, reflecting a widespread slowdown.

Opposition politicians, businessmen and economists said a recent anti-inflation budget was out of step with economic needs. Analysts say unemployment now 8.2 percent is likely to reach 8.5 to nine percent this winter, adding to pressure for a reflationary mini-budget in the spring. The aim of curbing inflation by slowing the economy is probably a dream, they add.

George Saba, of the Greenshields investment firm, believed too much inflation was built into the system for Ottawa's policies to have an impact. He cited energy price rises planned until 1985, indexed tax allowances, and food prices set regularly by marketing boards. William Jarvis of the research firm Informetrica believed curbing demand would not affect inflation because "current inflation is not due to excess demand." The government is forecasting a one-point drop in average inflation for 1982 from 12.7 percent this year. Most economists do not see the rate falling below 10.5 percent.

France adopts 2-year plan to end recession

PARIS, Dec. 14 (AP) — An two-year economic plan aimed at pulling France out of its recession and breaking the back on unemployment was passed by the National Assembly early Sunday after an all-night debate.

The Plan for 1982-83, presented by Planning Minister Michel Rocard, fixes six major objectives: a 3 percent annual growth rate compared with the current 1 percent; the creation of 400,000 to 500,000 jobs; reduction of the work week to 35 hours by 1985; "equitable distribution of the fruits of growth" and workers purchasing power; and increases in low wages.

The search for growth will start with a revival of the domestic market, where an upturn has already been noted.

As sugar price falls

Dominican Republic may not hire Haitians

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, Dec. 14 (R) — Falling world sugar prices and rising production costs may force the Dominican Republic to cut back its dependence on foreign labor.

Historically, this sugar-rich country has counted on about 20,000 workers from its neighbor Haiti for the grueling work of cane cutting. But now the government is trying to attract Dominican workers to take over the job, which some despise as slave labor, in order to ease balance of payments difficulties and high unemployment.

Federico Echenique, executive director of Inazucar, the body controlling sugar exports, said the government planned to reduce its dependence on imported labor over which it had no control. As a first step, it may lease or give small plots of land near sugar plantations to Dominican workers, to help them boost their earnings by growing crops during the non-harvest season, he said.

The experiment, already successfully tried by a private mill, could help lessen unemployment and spur productivity. Although no official unemployment figures for the country are known, economists here believe about 25 percent of the one million-strong labor force is jobless.

Haitian workers receive an average \$6 to \$8 a day, basic health benefits and about \$200 each for travel expenses home at the end of the harvest. Most save their wages and either take them back home in freely convertible dollars, which sugar industry officials said was a drain on foreign reserves, or buy goods.

They said a wild spending spree by the Haitians before they returned home had on occasions caused shortages of such basic items as sugar, rice and beans. Inazucar officials estimate fewer than 5,000 Dominicans are involved in cane-cutting, but austerity measures brought about by reduced sugar revenue may force more of them into the fields.

Echenique said it cost state mills about 17 to 18 cents to produce a pound of raw sugar, compared with some 14 cents for the more efficient private mills. But strikes by 45,000 workers, which delayed the harvest and cost the state sugar council \$20 million in bonus payments, could push up production costs next year. A drop in world sugar prices to between 10 and 14 cents a pound, forecast this month by the U.S. Agriculture Department for 1982, could throw the economy out of gear because sugar is the country's key foreign exchange earner.

Economists estimate that for every one cent drop in the price of world sugar, the country loses about \$20 million. Last year, when sugar prices averaged about 15 cents a pound, the Dominican Republic earned some \$330 million. This year, with an average price of 30 cents a pound, it hopes to earn an estimated \$554 million, or about 50 percent of total export revenue, for the same volume.

About 66 percent of all the raw sugar exported by the Dominican Republic in 1980 went to the United States, according to preliminary Central Bank figures. In previous years, the percentage has been as high as 80 percent. But Echenique said the future of the sugar industry looked cloudy because the United States might increase import tariffs and raise subsidies to its own producers.

He said the Dominican Republic had asked Washington for special concessions because of its status as a stable and dependable supplier of sugar.

Potentially even more serious for the industry is the prospect of the United States becoming self-sufficient in sugar. U.S. Ambassador Robert Yost said here recently that a State Department study showed the United States could achieve self-sufficiency by 1990.

Greece hikes levies on petrol, water

ATHENS, Dec. 14 (R) — Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has announced a series of economic measures that would help ease the financial burden of lower-income groups and revive the country's flagging economy.

At the same time, he announced price increases for petrol, central heating, water and telephone rates. Presenting his Socialist administration's first package of economic measures, Papandreu said in a televised speech that the economy was "in an advanced state of decomposition" which began with the economic programs of the first post-war governments. He said the crisis was aggravated during the last three years by the policies of the conservative New Democracy Party government defeated in last October's general elections, and compounded by world economic recession.

The prime minister said his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) administration had inherited empty coffers and called for the full support of the people to overcome the crisis.

Papandreu said that as a result of the former government's policy, inflation was now running at 25 percent. There would be zero growth this year, a \$2.5 billion, trade deficit, and a public-sector deficit of about \$6 billion, as well as negligible investment.

He said improved credit facilities would be offered to small and medium-sized industries which the government considered crucial to the country's economic development. The prime minister said that a scheme to index wages and salaries to the cost of living would be introduced next May, giving workers quarterly wage rises equal to all or a percentage of the inflation rate depending on the level of their incomes. Papandreu said his government hoped to reduce inflation to below 20 percent in 1982 and achieve a 2.5 percent increase in the country's output.

The working week would be reduced from 42 to 41 hours from January and to 40 hours from January 1983. The prime minister said a second round of measures dealing with investment incentives, taxation and prices would be introduced later this month.

Lebanon to get Iraqi crude by month-end

BEIRUT, Dec. 14 (R) — Iraqi crude oil could be flowing to Lebanon by the end of this month along a pipeline which has been lying idle for five years, Syria's oil minister has said.

The Lebanese newspaper *Al-Nahar* quoted Dr Abdul-Jabbar Al-Dahhak as saying the pipeline to Tripoli, whose flow has been interrupted by disputes over transit dues, will pump 300,000 barrels per day if technical problems are solved and conditions are agreed to. Dr. Dahhak said Iraq had agreed to pay Syria a net amount of 33 cents transit dues on every barrel of oil piped to Baquba on the Syrian coast.

But he said a problem had arisen over the dues on the oil to Tripoli. Damascus wanted Syria and Lebanon to receive dues according to the length of pipeline in each country, he said. Delivery of the pipeline to Tripoli would significantly increase Iraq's oil exporting capacity, which has been badly hit by the war with Iran.

Aid increase relieves German shipbuilders

HAMBURG, West Germany, Dec. 14 (R) — Increased government aid should mean calmer waters ahead for the West German shipbuilding industry — although some of its members may still founder on the rocks of recession and foreign competition.

Industry sources say Transport Minister Volker Hauff's recent proposal to continue the government's shipbuilding aid program for a further three years removes a great cause for concern within the industry.

Direct government subsidies to building costs next year will probably equal the 1980 figure of \$75 million and figures for 1983 and 1984 will be decided later, a ministry spokesman said.

About \$293 million of state subsidies were made available from 1979 to 1981. But another ministry proposal to increase government subsidies on interest rates charged on loans for shipbuilding may be of greater importance to the industry in the long run, the sources said. The ministry spokesman said he expected the measure to be passed following discussions by the parliamentary committee on the 1982 budget, despite current attempts to spare government expenditure.

The government currently offers interest subsidies of two percent on shipbuilding loans, but this would be increased to four percent for the next three years. The ministry spokesman was unable to say how much would be set aside annually under the proposal. In the last three years, \$53 million a year in interest subsidies was made available.

Shipbuilders have felt for some time that an increase in interest subsidies was necessary in the face of growing overseas state support of domestic shipyards and high West German interest rates. Under the 1976 organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Credit Agreement for Shipbuilders, minimum interest rates were set at eight percent for 80 percent of the building prices over eight and a half years.

West Germany's decision to set its subsidy at a maximum two percent is now hitting domestic yards facing official interest rates of up to 12 percent and market rates of 15 percent or more. Figures released by the West German Shipbuilding Industry Association show most of its European rivals benefit from far higher levels of direct and indirect state aid.

West German shipyards can cover 24 percent of the prices of domestic orders and 13 percent of those of foreign orders through government subsidies. This compares with 51 and 30 percent for Danish, 57 and 42 percent for French and 35 and 15 percent for Dutch

shipbuilders. Many shipyards have been fighting to stay above water since the collapse of the shipbuilding market in 1975 and 1976.

The industry's financial problems and redundancies were worse because shipbuilding capacity had been sharply increased worldwide in the 1960s following high levels of building orders unrealistically related to expected demand. The West German industry has dwindled to around 50 shipyards constructing ocean-going vessels with the workforce down to around 38,000 last year from 53,000 in 1975. Increase aid from the government may come too late to save the independent existence of some shipyards.

The North German Flensburg Schiffsbau-Gesellschaft, which has a workforce of about 2,200, said last week it was considering a merger with the Harmsdorf group whose activities include four shipyards employing 1,400.

Despite these problems, employment in the industry has stabilized and the levels of existing orders rose to \$2.4 billion in the first nine months of 1981 from \$1.6 billion at the end of 1980.

African states to sign treaty for trade boost

LUSAKA, Dec. 14 (R) — After four years of tough negotiations, 18 East and Southern African nations are ready to forget some of their differences and sign a treaty aimed at boosting trade and improving the lot of their 75 million people.

Leaders of the 18 widely-diverse countries are due to sign in Lusaka Dec. 21 a treaty establishing a regional Preferential Trade Area (PTA). Full details of the treaty will not be announced until it is signed, but the aim is to reduce and eliminate trade barriers between the 18 states, simplify and harmonize trade documents, and achieve customs cooperation.

The PTA region stretches from Djibouti at the strategic mouth of the Red Sea to Lesotho, an enclave in the heart of white-ruled South Africa, and from Angola on the Atlantic to Mauritius, 2,500 kms out in the Indian Ocean. The 18 countries are coming together despite strife in the Horn of Africa, lingering mistrust among the three former members of the collapsed East African Community (EAC) and a multitude of economic and political problems.

4,000th Boeing delivered

LONDON, Dec. 14 — The 4,000th Boeing jetliner, a 727-200, has been delivered to Ansett Airlines of Australia, 23 years after the first 707 was delivered to Pan American to begin America's entry into the jet age. This combined jetliner fleet now has carried some three-and-a-half-billion passengers during more than 100 million flying hours, and has flown more than 45 billion miles.

Boeing, who are now manufacturing their two latest fuel-economy jetliners — the 767 and 757 — have built their tremendous success on the safety and reliability of the 707, 727, 737 and 747. The 707 was produced in nine major models but is now built only for the AWACS airborne warning and control system. There have been 940 of the 707s delivered to airlines throughout the world since 1958. Delivery of the 727 began in 1963 and has proved to be the largest selling airliner in history — 1,808 ordered and 1,761 of this popular, three-engine jetliner deli-

vered to date. The smallest member of the Boeing fleet is the 737, two-engine, which entered airline service in 1967 with the first delivery to the German airliner, Lufthansa. Last year, the 737 was the world's best selling jetliner — 778 have been delivered and there are now four different models.

The queen of the jetliner fleets is still the double-deck 747, the first of which was delivered in 1969 and went into service one month later. It is built in seven versions and 521 have been delivered. The latest modification to the 747 is the extension of the upper deck to accommodate extra passengers. The latest customer is the long-distance specialist of French airlines — UTA.

An average of 178 jetliners per year have been produced since the first delivery in 1958. Excluding current work in progress on the 757 and 767, Boeing are making 18 jetliners each month of their four other types.

business

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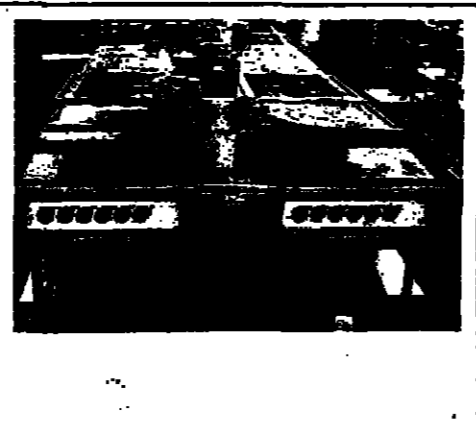
Read this week in SAUDI BUSINESS



COVER:
The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency has started encouraging people to use checkbooks and has set up clearing-houses to speed up transactions. On page 20, Ahmad Kamal Khuro interviews bankers and officials to describe in detail the advantages of using checks. Cover design: Iqbal Azim Cover Photo by Mohammed Ibrahim



DESAL MEET:
For the first time in the Middle East the International Desalination Environment Association met in Bahrain, electing a new president. Louise Denver who attended the meeting describes what transpired at the conference.



AUSSIES INTENSIFY EFFORTS:
Australia has stepped up its efforts to boost trade with the Kingdom, dispatching five delegations during the last two months. Kathy Lund explains on the flurry of activities.

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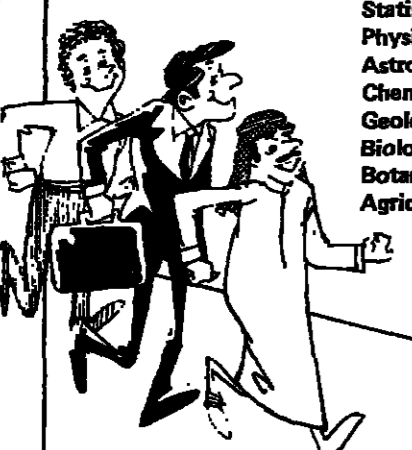
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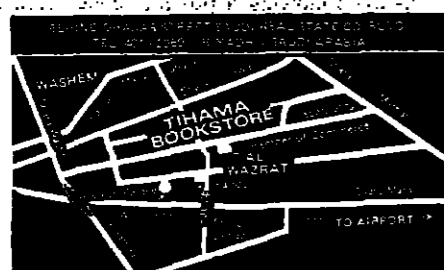
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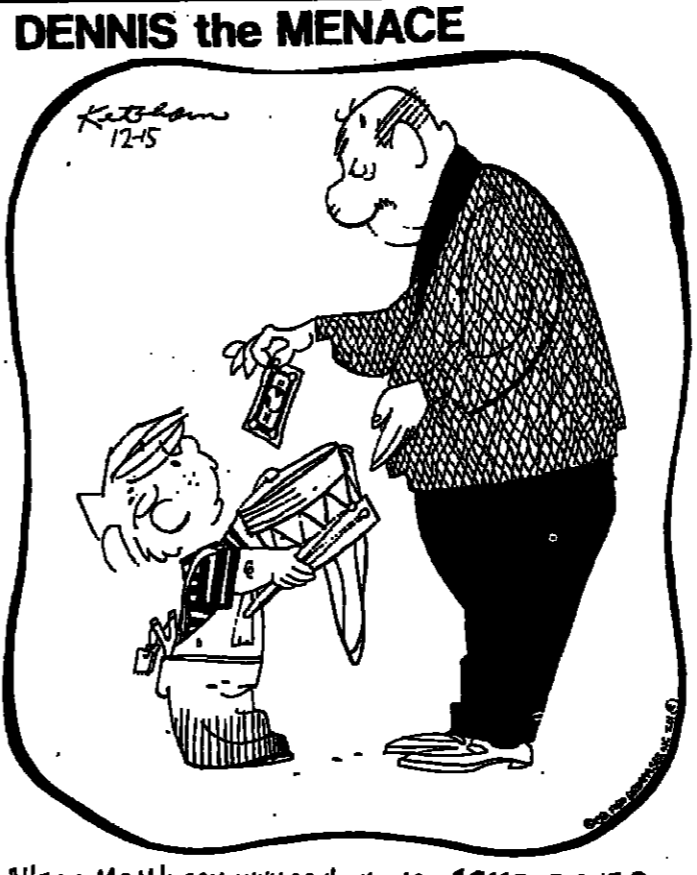
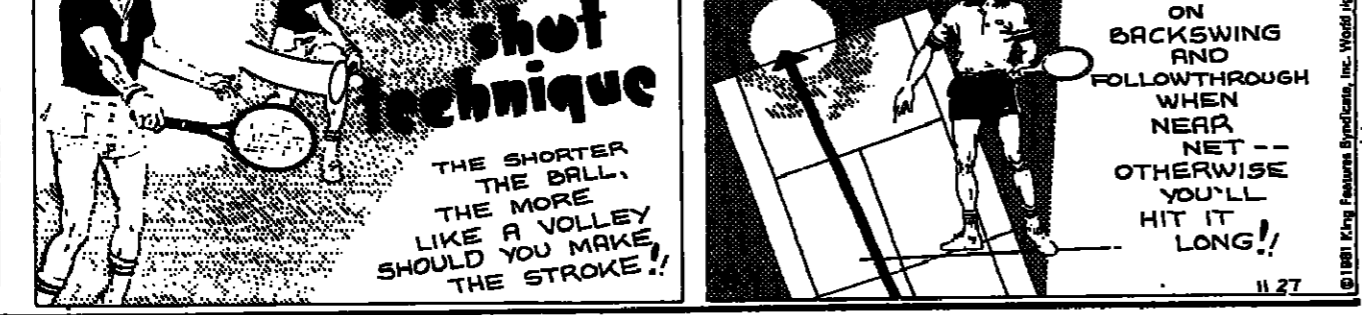
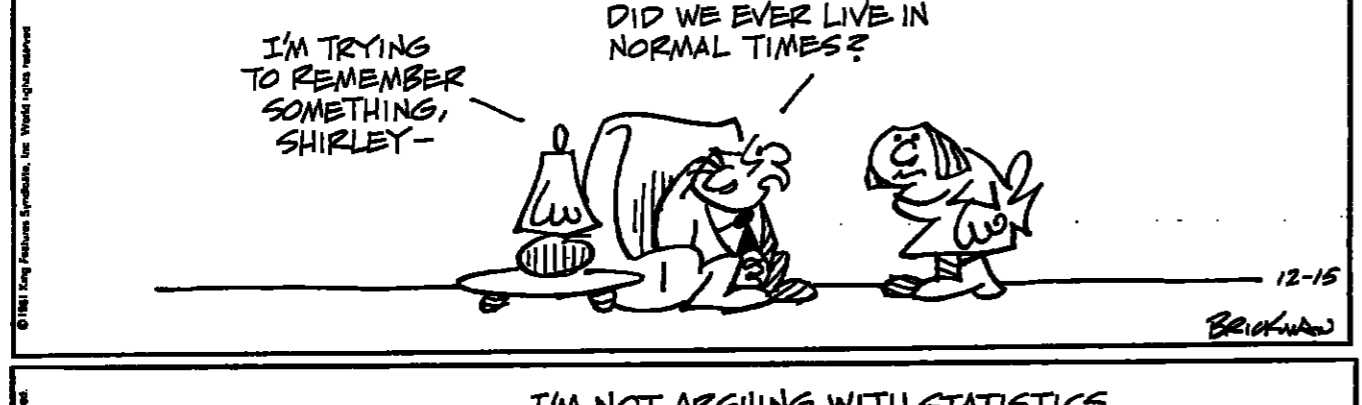
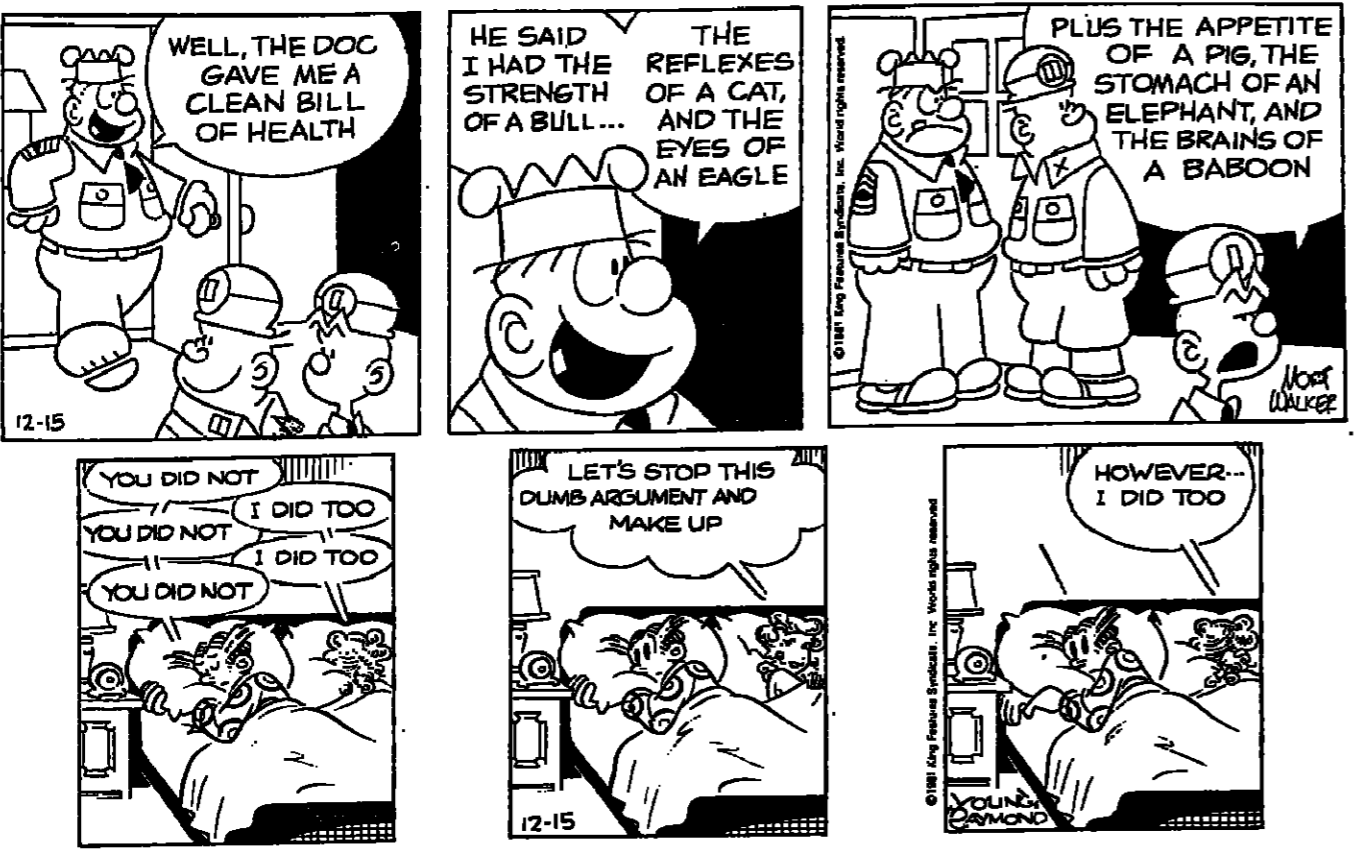
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Crossword by Thomas Joseph. Includes clues for ACROSS and DOWN words.

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Contract Bridge. Advertisement for B. Jay Becker, a Little White Lie.

Your Individual Horoscope by Frances Drake. Horoscope for Tuesday, December 15, 1981.

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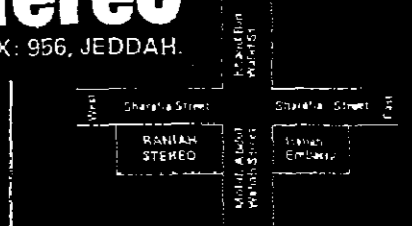
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